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HAYATE CROSS BLADE

林家志弦

SHIZURU HAYASHIYA

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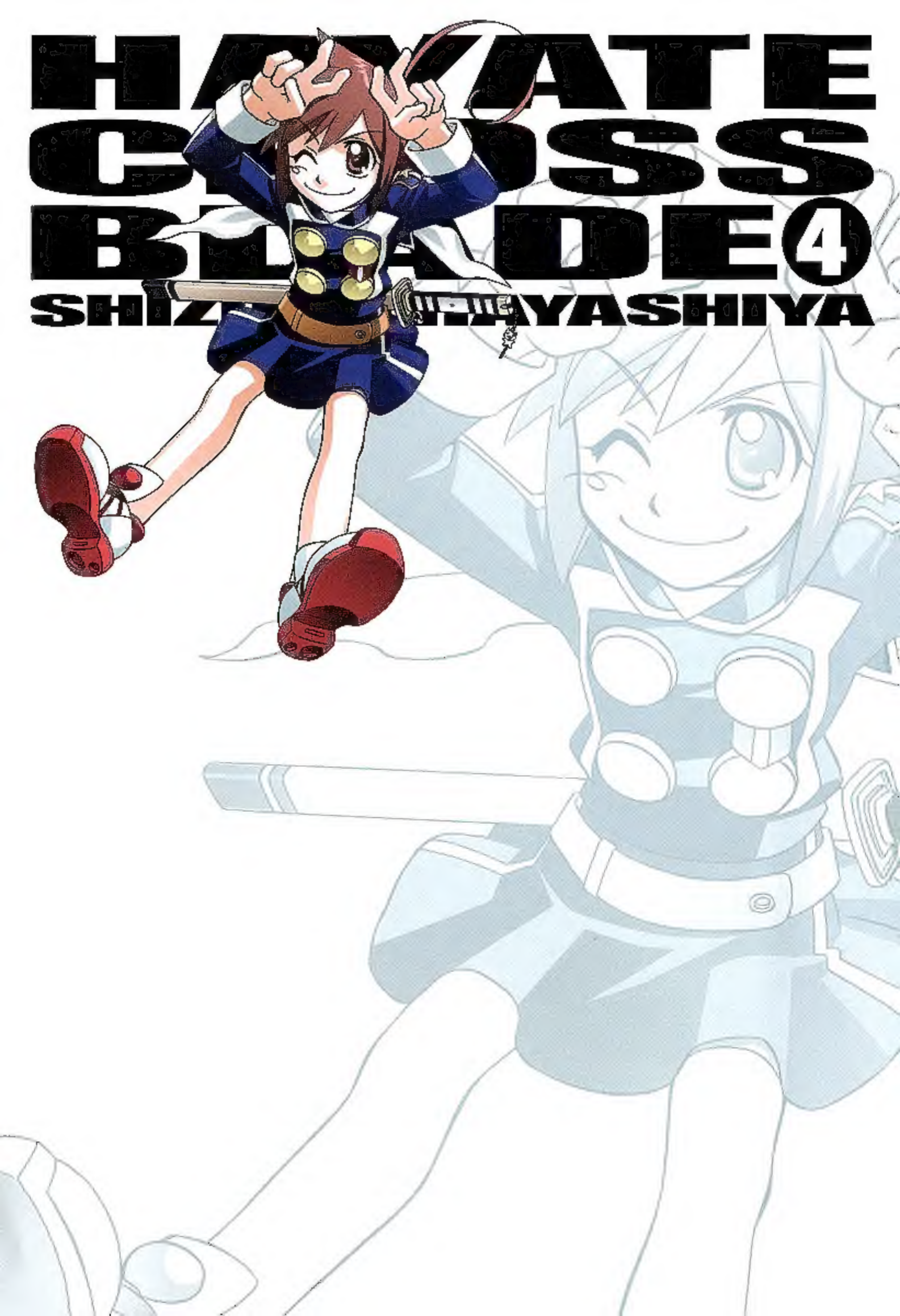
SHIZUMA AYASHIYA



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PREEEEEEEEE
!
TH-WHUMP

KUGA/
SHIZUMA
PAIR...!

#20 - Companions in Idiocy

SHADOW
STAR
FALLEN!!

FSH

HHH

HHH

SHE WON...

.....

whew

AYANA... WON...

!!

.....

WHOA!

SWHUMP

WHA..?

?

?

DASH

.....

FSHHH

JUN...

!

EVEN JUST *TOUCHING* YOUR PARTNER WILL GET YOU DISQUALIFIED!

YOU *KNOW* THAT, RIGHT?!!

ONCE AN EARTH SWORD'S SHADOW STAR HAS BEEN TAKEN, THEY'RE KNOCKED OUT OF THE FIGHT, *PERIOD!*

SKF SKF

WAIT, JUN! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO--!

!

NO! YOU CAN'T !!

HAAAH!!

...!

YEAH, WELL-- EAT SHIT !!!!

ROWR

STAGGER

DMP DMP DMP DMP DMP DMP

SO WHAT IF I HAVE ?!!

You're not getting away with this!

And what's with the swearing?!

HAVE YOU GONE COMPLETELY BRAIN-DEAD?!!

AH...! W- WAIT!

FWOOSH

.....

SIGMA!

SHE'S FINALLY COMING AFTER MY STAR!

SHE'S DIFFERENT NOW!

THWACK

Hee

!!!

THE RAIN FEELS NICE AND COOL.

I GUESS THAT MEANS I'VE PUSHED MYSELF A LITTLE TOO FAR.

Now that I think about it...

This technique was one I made up once because Jun looked bored.

How about this move? I combined Aikido with a touch of Nichibu dancing.

Oooh

to prevent wast ng precious energy.

Movement is kept to an absolute m.nimum

SHF

HEY...

SWOOO

YEOW!!

Energy I could conserve to play a .ittle b.t longer.

AH

FWOOO

!!

I now need to steal her star!

Energy...

HER STYLE?

WHAT'S UP WITH. .

.....

WISH

TP

It's so slow--

But it's still really hard to figure out where her strikes are gonna come from.

WAIT..
I KNOW
I'VE
SEEN T
BEFORE--!

I feel like I know it better than any other style, but...

HAAAA!!

It's wispy like a willow tree.

AH..?

Nagi?

!

.....

THWAP

URK!

WHOA!

WHIRL

Crud!

JUST A LITTLE FURTHER

SHVR

STAGGER

NH...!

PLEASE...

REACH HER!!

WHUM

SKSHHHHHHHH

SKSHHHHHHHH

BREEEEEEEEEEE

SHIII

STILL...

NOW WE CAN FINALLY-

SORRY...

FWEEET

THE KUGA/SHIZUMA HEAVEN SWORD'S STRIKE TO THE OPPOSING HEAVEN'S STAR...

IS INVALID!!

INVALID !!!

YOU WERE TOUCHED BY YOUR EARTH SWORD, WHO HAS BEEN ELIMINATED--

ACCORDINGLY, THE STRIKE TO THE MUDOU/ KUROSAKI HEAVEN SWORD'S STAR IS RENDERED INVALID AND THE KUGA/ SHIZUMA PAIR IS DISQUALIFIED

A FRACTION OF A SECOND PRIOR TO THE STRIKE...

WHAT..?

I KNOW I REACHED HER STAR.

WHY?

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS A PENALTY.

The Head Judge saw it

THE RULES ARE ***ABSOLUTE!!***

QUIET, YOU!

TCH!

YOU AND YOUR DAMNED TOO-SHARP EYEBALLS HAVE NO SENSE OF THE DRAMA.

ENOUGH.

IT'S OKAY.

YUUKO...

AFTER ALL I...

BUT...

THWAK

URPH!!

TO ME, AS LONG AS YOU ARE OKAY, NOTHING ELSE MATT--

GYAAA!

TOTTER

OOH

WAAAAH!

NO EXCUSES!! NONE!!!

GET SOME STRETCH-ERS! HURRY!!

YEAH.

That's what you get for butting in

Dart

.....

WELL, SHE SURE KNOWS HOW TO GET MAD

WE NEED TWO !!

SHE'S P'SSED

HM.

YOUR VITALS ARE STABLE.

Just over-exerted yourself, is all.

RELAX AND LEAVE THE REST TO THE DOCTORS, OKAY?

CAPTAIN!! SHE DOESN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF ILLNESS!

Hold your tongue!

ANYWAY, IS IT JUST ME, OR WAS THIS ALL TOTALLY ANTI-CLIMACTIC?

I WAS EXPECTING YOU TO START *HACKING UP BLOOD* OR GO INTO *SEIZURES* OR SOMETHING.

AS FOR YOU...

Ice bag

KEEP SOME ICE ON IT AND IT'LL HEAL UP JUST FINE.

JUN.

TWITCH

YOU ARE AN *IDIOT.*

BLOCK-HEAD

STUPID, I *HAD* HER STAR STOLEN, BUT YOU *HAD TO* GO AND BE DUMB! *MEGA-MORON!*

YES.

Um.

YES.

.....

TOLL

BECALSE YOU BEGAN TO WORRY ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU?

.....

YOU LOST YOUR FIGHT WITH AYANA...

I DID FINALLY GET TO GO ALL OUT WITH HER.

MAYBE.

STILL...

NO, SERIOUSLY! I DID!

AH HA HA!

IF YOU HAD GONE ALL OUT, YOU WOULD HAVE WON!

LIAR!

TO BORROW SOME OF AYANA'S WORDS...

RIGHT THEN, THAT WAS ALL I HAD.

YEAH, SO I SCREWED UP BUT THAT WAS BECALSE OF MY OWN OVER-CONFIDENCE.

AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU FOR SETTING IT UP.

AND THAT'S WHAT MADE IT SUCH A BLAST!

LOSING STILL *REALLY* IRRITATES ME.

BUT DESPITE ALL THAT...

REALLY GOOD.

OH...

O-OKAY.

JIM, THAT'S GOOD.

I GUESS WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO HAVE A REMATCH ONCE YOU GET BACK!

AND FINDING A MATCHING DONOR MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME.

I MIGHT BEED A BONE-MARROW TRANS-PLANT...

BY THE TIME I CAN RETURN, YOU AND AVANA MAY HAVE ALREADY GRADUATED

I DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW, I KNOW

C'MON, GIVE ME A LITTLE CREDIT, OKAY?

IN MY CASE, A 'MATCHING DONOR' MEANS--

I looked it all up already

IT ISN'T THAT EASY, JUN.

UHM ...

NO PROBLEM!

WHAT, IS THAT ALL?

I'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE AT MATCHING THAN MOST.

STILL...

JUST USE MINE FOR THE TRANSPLANT AND YOU'LL BE DONE LICKETY-SPLIT!

SNEAK

Was borrowing the first-aid kit.

OH, YOU CAN STICK AROUND, AYANA.

THIS IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HEAR, TOO, I GUESS.

I'VE GOT SHIZUMA BLOOD IN ME, Y'SEE. MY BIOLOGICAL DAD WAS A SHIZUMA.

YUHO'S DAD, TO BE PRECISE. SO THAT MAKES THE TWO OF US HALF-SISTERS.

BUT Y'KNOW? I DON'T REALLY GIVE A *DAMN* ABOUT ALL THAT.

TO ME, MY REAL DAD IS MY KUGA DAD AND THAT'S THAT.

MY PARENTS SAID THERE WERE '*CIRCUMSTANCES*' THAT 'GOT OUT OF HAND'...

AND SO I WOUND UP GETTING BORN.

BE-
SIDES...

I'D THOUGHT ABOUT NEVER REALLY BRINGING THIS UP AT ALL, *EVER*...

BUT IF I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH DONOR TESTS, IT'LL ALL COME OUT ANYWAY.

ALL THAT MEANS I'VE GOT THE BEST CHANCE AT SAVING YUKO. AND THAT MEANS A WHOLE LOT TO ME.

YEAH, I'M REALLY GLAD I WAS BORN.

.....

ABOUT TIME YOU DECIDED TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

Eh?

THEN I *WHACKED* HIM UPSIDE THE HEAD WITH MY BOKUTO FOR BEING AN IDIOT.

I HEARD THE WHOLE STORY DIRECTLY FROM MY FATHER.

SHVR

OKAY.

Are you saying you already knew?

NOT KNOWING WOULD BE STUPIDER.

W- WAIT..

YUHO..

YOU DIDN'T BRING IT UP SO I DIDN'T EITHER.

BECAUSE THE RESULT OF ALL THAT *CRAP* IS THAT I GOT TO MEET JUN.

In the end, anyway

BUT I FORGAVE HIM.

SERIOUSLY... ADULTS CAN BE SUCH *MORONS* WHEN THEY TRY.

SO IT'S ALL OKAY.

THE *CIRCUM-STANCES* ARE PROB-ABLY EVEN DUMBER, SO I'M NEVER GOING TO ASK

I'M *REALLY* GLAD JUN WAS BORN, TOO, YOU KNOW.

AND NOT BECAUSE OF THE CHANCE SHE COULD BE A MATCHING DONOR OR STUFF LIKE THAT...

BUT BECAUSE SHE'S MY FRIEND.

Y- YUHO...

UNFOLD

I SWEAR ON EVERYTHING HOLY EVER THAT I'LL BECOME THE RIGHT DONOR FOR YOU-!!

IN FACT, I'LL MAKE MYSELF THE *PERFECT* MATCH FORK YOU IN TIME FOR THE OPERATION.

I SWEAR THE TRANS-PLANT'LL WORK!!

あ

あ

あ

WAAAAAAA

You'll 'make' it work..?

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE MY LIFE, OR KILL ME? *PICK ONE.*

UMM...

YU~ HO~ ~!!!

ACK! OFF!!

Quit blubbering on me!!

I really want to change clothes right now.

GYAAAA

CAN I GO HOME NOW?

HN?

KOOSH

!!!

SO DO YOU GET IT NOW?

THERE'S *ALWAYS* SOMEONE BETTER OUT THERE DON'T FORGET THAT.

YOU DID TOTALLY LOSE TO HER, THOUGH.

SO THAT FIGHT WAS ENOUGH TO KILL EVEN YOUR ETERNAL OPTIMISM.

WHAT'S THIS..?

SIGMA WAS *SUPER-DUPER-* STRONG!

YEAH I WON'T.

Huh?

OH, AYANA.

BESIDES, WE'RE CAGNEY & LACEY, THE GREATEST, STRONGEST PAIR EVER!! WE CAN NEVER LOSE!!

I MEAN, YOU WON THIS TIME, SO WE'RE HALF-WAY THERE!!

BUT NEXT TIME WE'LL WIN FOR SURE!!

NOT ONLY DO YOU OBVIOUSLY NOT GET IT AT ALL, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU CALLING US THIS TIME?!!

YEEEEAAAAL!

MY, MY-- INSTALLING SECURITY CAMERAS WITHIN THE INFIRMARY BEDROOMS...

Meanwhile

Should we be spying on them like this?

WOW...

SNIFFLE

WELL DONE, TATEWAKI.

However I feel it could be illegal Let us turn her in to the police

IT FEELS LIKE WE JUST WITNESSED AN INCREDIBLE HUMAN DRAMA.

#20 END

I MEAN, SHE ONLY WON BECAUSE I GOT A LITTLE DISTRACTED AT THE END NEXT TIME I WON'T GO SO EASY ON HER!!

RIIIGHT, SURE YOU DID

WELL THEN, LET'S HAVE A RE-MATCH WITH THEM AS SOON AS THEY GET BACK.

God.

There really is no medicine to cure stupidity, is there

ALL RIGHT. WHATEVER. JUST GET OUT OF MY BED, ONEECHAN!!

WAAAH!!! YUHO! YUHO~! CALL ME 'ONEECHAN'! PLEASE?!

YANK

Notes and Credits

Translations:
Deathy80
Editing:
Deathy80
RAWs:
toshokan

and finally here's the start of the batch releases! Chapters 17-22 for now! I'd hoped to finish till 25 by the end of the year...but the holidays made me lose more time as expected, so i'll release chapters 23-25 in the first week of january. Chapters 26-30 will also follow in jan/feb 2010 (since vol 5 was released this dec =p)

Anyways, ENJOY!

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DATA

Middle School, Class 1-B

Height: 153 cm
Weight: 42 kg
Birth Date: February 20
Zodiac: Pisces
Blood Type: O
Favorite Word: Tema
Irazu (no effort necessary)

星河紅愛(HOSHIKAWA KUREA)

IT'S BEEN LIKE, TWO WEEKS SINCE I ORDERED IT...

AND THERE'S ONLY FIVE DAYS LEFT 'TIL THE DUEL.

'WEAPON-SMITH'.

ARE YOU TOTALLY SURE IT WILL BE DONE ON TIME?

Model Research Club

Weapons Modification

#21 - Wriggling Idiots

ALL MAJOR FUNCTIONS ARE ALREADY AT 90% COMPLETION.

HEH HEH.

LEAVE IT TO ME.

OF COURSE.

HERE, ALLOW ME TO GIVE A DEMON-STRATION.

I WANT AT LEAST *THREE* DAYS TO BREAK IT IN.

THEN HURRY UP AND GET IT DONE, 'KAY?

*NAKAGO- THE PIN THAT SECURES THE KATANA BLADE TO THE HILT

THE *NAKAGO* PORTION HAS BEEN MADE INTO A CONTROL LEVER WHICH IS MANIPULATED VIA THE HILT.

IT IS NOT YET AFFIXED TO THE HILT, HOWEVER, AS YOU CAN SEE...

!

AND THE CATCH IS RELEASED, LOOSING THE INTERNAL SPRING TO--

DO THIS...

KRASH

Klik

ALL PRECISELY AS YOU REQUESTED.

SHING

.....

NIIIICE.

KLATTER

KLATTER

KLATTER

HAAH HAAH HAAH

IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT THIS IS MY *GREATEST* MASTER-WORK TO DATE!

NOT ONLY THAT...

HAAH HAAH HAAH

HEH.

EHEH HEH

I'VE BEEN PART OF THE MODEL RESEARCH CLUB FOR A LONG TIME, *HOWEVER*...

THAT'S EXACTLY THE MODI-FICATION I WAS LOOKING FOR.

EXCELLENT WORK! BRILLIANT!!

PATTER

I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU.

TUNK

LET ME KNOW THE *MINUTE* IT'S DONE, 'KAY?

ANY-WAYS...

was utterly destroyed!!

HAAA

With its attack, my figure collection, more precious to me than anything but my own life

#21 - Wriggling Idiots.

HEY, HEEY, HEY!!

JUN-JUUUN!!!

IT'S BEEN FOR-EVER!

♡

KYAAA

S-SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME...

Oops. forgot about those.

I'M SO SORRY...

SO I PRESSED THE ISSUE UNTIL SHE LET ME COME INSTEAD

JUN'S LEFT A LOT OF *QUESTIONABLE* BOOKS AND OTHER ITEMS IN THERE. I DEFINITELY CAN'T LET MOM SEE THOSE...

NOT REALLY. BUT MOM SAID SHE'D COME PACK UP FOR ME AND, WELL...

YOU PERV!

YOU DO REALIZE IT'S TOTALLY UNCLEAR WHETHER YOU MEAN PERFECTLY *GOOD* OR PERFECTLY *BAD*, RIGHT?

.....

PERFECT.

OH, RIGHT. THEY WERE, OF COURSE...

ZING

Which way are you pointing those thumbs?!

UM, ANY-WAYS...

.....

HOW'D THE RESULTS TURN OUT?

Hm?

YOU KNOW, *THE TESTS*?

I WASN'T ENTIRELY SURE WE'D MATCH UP.

BUT I GOTTA ADMIT..

IT ALL WORKED OUT

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

I GUESS SO

Cool.

BUT WE GOT REALLY LUCKY.

SOMETIMES GOD DOES SOME AWESOME TH'NGS, Y'KNOW?

'TRANS-PLANT'?

BUT RIGHT NOW, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS WA T FOR THE TRANS-PLANT

YEP!

'COURSE THERE'S STILL A LOT LEFT ON THE HOR'ZON FOR US...

YOUR BRAIN MUST BE THE MOST QUESTIONABLE SUBSTANCE ON THIS ENTIRE PLANET!!!

I GUESS TO PUT IT SIMPLY-- MY INTERNAL JUICES ARE GOING TO GET INJECTED INTO YUHO.

IT'S A SPECIAL SURGERY CALLED A BONE-MARROW TRANS-PLANT.

THAT'S RIGHT, HAYATE-CHAN.

It could also change her blood type isn't that weird?

Ayana, save me.

SUDDENLY... I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

Juices?

WAIT, WHAT COULD 'JUICES' IN THIS CONTEXT REMIND YOU OF?!

RUMMAGE

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT JUICES REM NDED ME.

OH YEAH.

!...

I'M GONNA WIN THOUGH!!

YOU'RE GONNA BE BACK REAL SOON, RIGHT?

WHEN YOU DO, PUT HER ON YOUR SWORD AND LET'S FIGHT AGAIN, OKAY?

HERE. THIS ONE'S FOR SIGMA.

NYAAAA!

HER NAME'S SHI-GENA!

U..UH... UH...

O... OKAY ...

SAY HI TO EROSHIGE!

THERE'S ONE FOR YOU TOO, JUN-JUN!

I'LL KEEP HER WITH ME.

THANK YOU...

ERO-SHIGE, YOU SAY?

Perfect fit, if you ask me.

Um. thanks.

NYAAAAOO

YEAH!

KuREA...

Brrr.

SO WHAT *MUD PUDDLE* HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING YOURSELF IN LATELY, HUH?

Kyaa ~

What do you mean kyaa? ☆

OH NO!

SHE SAW ME!

SHUT UP!! QUIT CHANGING THE SUBJECT!! AND STUPID SAE'S MAKING ME READ THIS, THAT'S ALL! DROP IT!!

YOU ARE *SUCH A* FANGIRL.

OH MY GAWD.

WHAT ARE YOU READING, AKIRA?

I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM. OPPOR-TUNITY'S KNOCKING, Y'KNOW?

WHAT REASON DO I HAVE TO IGNORE IT?

NOT A SHRED OF REMORSE FOR BETRAYING US SO HANDILY BACK THERE, *HN?*

.....

FMP

THE DEAL WE HAD DOESN'T MEAN SQUAT NOW, DOES IT?

AH.

Hm?

WE'RE NOT RANK A OR SPECIAL-A ANYMORE.

YOU'VE GONE SOFT, AKIRA.

WE KNOW HER WEAKNESS NOW AND EVERYTHING.

NOT EXPLOITING IT WOULD BE, LIKE, THE STUPIDEST THING EVER.

BESIDES, FOLLOWING YOU WAS GETTING US NOWHERE.

COWARDS TOO AFRAID OF LOSING, TO EVER FIGHT, DON'T STAND A CHANCE AT STEALING THE ACADEMY AWAY FROM *HER*.

Later

WE'RE RANK S.

.....

RIGHT. HER WEAK-NESS...

AND JUST WHO DO YOU THINK *GAVE* YOU THAT INFORMATION IN THE FIRST PLACE?

TWITCH

IN THE END, WHICH ONE OF US IS REALLY THE SOFTIE?

'SOFT', HUH? *ME?*

ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR YOU TO CONCENTRATE FULLY UPON YOUR TREATMENT.

THAT IS MOST EXCEL-LENT NEWS.

I SEE.

YES, MISS.

LET US BOTH AIM FOR ITS HEIGHTS TOGETHER.

IT IS SOMETHING IN WHICH I HOLD MUCH FAITH, AS WELL

AN 'UN-BREAK-ABLE SPIRIT' IS A THING OF *BEAUTY.*

CON-CENTRA-TION.

HEART.

AMBITION.

UM, YES, MISS.

DO NOT WORRY. I HAVE APPROVED YOUR TEMPORARY LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE. YOU ARE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO CLASS AT ANY TIME, AND YOUR STARS WILL BE FROZEN AT THEIR CURRENT LEVEL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YOU DECIDE TO DO SO

IT SEEMS YOU STILL HAVE SOMETHING YOU WISH TO ASK OF ME.

WELL THEN...

BUT I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK ON TOP OF THAT

THE STATE OF ONE'S SPIRIT CAN DO MUCH TO MAKE A BODY STRONGER OR *WEAKER.*

YOU'RE STAYING HERE, JUN.

I MEAN IT.

WHY?! THAT'S STUPID!! I'VE GOT NO REASON TO STICK AROUND THIS PLACE WITHOUT YOU!

WHAT THE--?!

YUHO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! I'M--

I'M GOING TO TRY BEATING THIS ON MY OWN THIS TIME.

MY SISTER-IN-ARMS WILL REMAIN HERE WHILE I AM GONE.

SO I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR ME.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BEQUEATH MY BLADE TO HER FOR THE EXTENT OF MY ABSENCE?

.....

GAPE

GAPE

YOU SAID YOU WISH TO 'BEQUEATH' YOUR SWORD TO HER, IN WHAT FASHION?

WELL...

I WOULD LIKE TO BEQUEATH TO HER MY HEAVEN SWORD

I WOULD LIKE FOR HER TO BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOSHITORI *AS A PAIR BY HERSELF.*

THUS, BEARING BOTH A HEAVEN *AND* AN EARTH SWORD...

SHE DEFI-NITELY REACTED TO THAT ONE

UH-OH

I have a bad feeling about this.

!...

NO.

SHE'LL BE ALL R'GHT.

I THINK IT MIGHT BE EAS.ER AL.. AROUND IF SHE SIMPLY STAYED AS A LONE WOLF UNTIL YOUR RETURN.

WOULD THAT NOT BE TOO BIG A BURDEN TO CARRY?

YES, MISS.

BUT AS A PARTNER CHARGED WITH BEAR'NG THE DUTY OF HER ABSENT OTHER HALF

SO YOUR WISH IS FOR YOUR SISTER-'N-ARMS TO REMAIN HERE NOT AS A LONE WOLF..

THERE IS NO PRECEDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY.

BEARING BOTH A HEAVEN AND AN EARTH BLADE, HM?

HOWEVER, SHIZUMA-SAN'S ABILITIES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. *ADDITIONALLY,* AS SHE IS SIMPLY TAKING A TEMPORARY LEAVE-OF-ABSENCE, THERE IS NO NEED TO ANNUL THE SISTERHOOD.

.....

RIGHT?

'RIGHT' SHE SAYS...

MY SISTER-IN-ARMS IS *UBER-STRONG,* AFTER ALL.

JUN, *PLEASE.*

STAY HERE AND PROTECT OUR STARS.

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO HEAR THE WISHES OF THE PERSON IN QUESTION.

La La La La

ACCORD-INGLY...

She thinks

THIS will be AWKW-SING

BIG GRIN

BIG GRIN

YOU'RE DYING TO GIVE THEM PERMISSION ALREADY, AREN'T YOU, KAICHI?

UNDER-STOOD...

HIME...

Owww that hurt

YOU DRIVE ME NUTS, YOU'RE STAYING. THAT'S AN ORDER.

OKAY, SO YOU WANT ME TO MAKE IT AN ORDER, THEN?

YOU ARE HEREBY GRANTED PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOSHITORI USING BOTH THE OFFENSIVE HEAVEN SWORD AND THE DEFENSIVE EARTH SWORD.

FOR THE LIMITED TIME PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS IS ABSENT, AND *ONLY* THIS PERIOD.

THE MATTER OF YOUR SHADOW STAR WILL BE VIEWED AS NEGATED BY THE TWO-VERSUS-ONE RISK YOU WILL FACE IN BETTLE.

THAT DECIDES IT, THEN.

LET US MAKE IT FORMAL, SHALL WE? MIDDLE SCHOOL, CLASS 3-6 KUGA JUN. RANK B.

AAAUGH!

SO I'M DROPPED DOWN A RANK TOO?!

That makes all this all the more frustrating! o.o

YOUR CURRENT POINTS WILL BE TREATED AS IF YOUR SISTERHOOD HAS BEEN ANNULLED-- IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE REDUCED BY HALF

HOWEVER, THIS REMAINS A *SPECIAL, ONE-TIME* EXCEPTION.

I THINK IT WOULD BE A BRILLIANT *PERFORMANCE* TO GREET HER ARRIVAL ON A *STAGE* EVEN HIGHER THAN THE ONE ON WHICH YOU NOW STAND, DON'T YOU?

YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS SEEMS POISED TO FIGHT HER BATTLE VALIANTLY AND RETURN HAVING WON IT.

KUGA-SAN...

IF YOU TOO, VIEW THIS AS ANOTHER MEANS OF FIGHTING WITH YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS BY YOUR SIDE...

I'LL BE HAPPY IF YOU JUST STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR ME.

WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO *GO THAT* FAR FOR ME, JUN

IS THIS NOT ONE OF THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES *YOU COULD EVER HOPE FOR?*

IT GIVES ME REASON TO FIGHT HARDER AND COME BACK SOONER.

Dammit!

AAARGH!!

.....

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE STUBBORN ABOUT IT, THEN I'LL DO IT, OKAY?!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! I GET IT!!

WONDER-FUL! I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY.

I, TOO, SHALL BE WAITING FOR YOUR ARR'VAL WITH BATED BREATH, BEARER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

HAVING OFFICIALLY CHANGED THE UNIFORM SHIRT-LENGTH TO 20CM ABOVE THE KNEE!!!

BWAH HA HA HA HA HA HA!

I DIDN'T SAY YOU HAD TO GO THAT FAR...

AND BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK, I'LL BE WEARING WHITE, SITTING IN THAT SEAT OVER HERE...

SNAP

.....

AUGH, No!! PLEASE ?!!

Whichever the case, I await your challenge.

?

SNICKER

RYOUTOU-TSUKAI" IS A FAR MORE APT MONIKER DON'T YOU THINK?

NO, I KNOW--

"RYOUTOU-TSUKAI: JAPANESE FOR A TWO-SWORD FIGHTING STYLE. IT IS ALSO A EUPHEMISM FOR BI-SEXUALITY.

TP

HUFF

TP

HUFF

TP

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

Cowards too afraid of losing

don't stand a chance ..

GRR

HUFF

LIKE ANYBODY EVER LIKES LOSING!

DUH! OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO LOSE!

Dammit I didn't want to remember that

ARGH!!

DMP DMP DMP DMP

HN..2

HAAAAAA

I WANT A GUARAN-TEED WIN

BUT I..

UNLIKE YOU.

HAH! HAH! HOH!

HOH!

FWOOSH

WHO THE HELL'S THAT?

Where'd she come from?

WHAT THE ?

HOH! HAH! HOH! HAH!

DART

HOH!

SWSH

!!

FWSH

.....!!

.....

DMP DMP DMP DMP

.....!!!

THMP THMP THMP THMP

.....

EVERYONE IS FIGHTING...!

AT THIS MOMENT

THE TWO OF US ARE UNDER A VERY SPECIAL, VERY UNIQUE PRESSURE

I MUST ADMIT, I AM FEELING A TOUCH OF NERVOUS-NESS

EACH FOR THEIR OWN REASON

UNDE-PEN-DENTLY

SOON WE SHALL HAVE OUR FIRST BOUT IN A VERY LONG TIME

I SIMPLY ADORE THE ATMOSPHERE THAT CREATES. IT'S WON-DERFUL

LET US GIVE OUR OPPONENTS THE HONOR OF FACING THEM WITH THE ENTIRETY OF OUR STRENGTH

THE GREATEST HONOR I HAVE EVER HAD IN MY LIFE WAS THE PRIVILEGE OF BUILDING THIS PLACE, THIS STAGE.

YES, KAICHO

THAT IS ALWAYS MY INTENTION

OUR BLADES MUST NOT BRING SHAME TO THE PINNACLE OF THIS ACADEMY.

NOT ONLY FOR OUR SAKES...

BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO REGARD *US* AS THEIR GOAL.

HAAAH

WHO... *HFF..* THE HELL ARE... YOU?

.....

HAAAH

HAAAH

WHY... DID YOU... *HFF..* SCREW WITH MY PACE LIKE THAT?

IF ALL YOU'RE DOING ARE *SPRINTS*, EVERYTHING FROM *YOUR EMPTY HEAD* TO YOUR *PUNY ASS* IS GOING TO BREAK DOWN FIRST!!

HAAAAA

What, are you STUPID?!

HAAAH

I was just.. hah.. running.

Just running.. cough.. to work my legs. training. hff.. y'know?

HUH?

.....

HAAAH

But.. I lost

HAAAH

I ALREADY KNEW THAT I WAS FIGHTING SOMEONE REALLY SUPER-DUPER STRONG...

BUT LOSING STILL FEELS *REALLY BAD.*

SO I DECIDED TO DO WHAT AYANA TOLD ME TO DO.

I GOTTA MAKE SURE I DON'T LOST THE NEXT ONE...

SO I GOTTA TRAIN, RIGHT?

'AYANA' ?

OH, RIGHT, THAT GRL WITH THE GLASSES

They're partners, then

I'D BEEN WINNING THE WHOLE TIME...

SHF

BUT THEN I LOST.

AYANA WON, BUT I LOST.

WAAAAH!!

NO!! SHE JUST TOLD ME I GOTTA TRAIN!!!

torture or something

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PARTNER TRYING TO DO TO YOU?

SHE TOLD YOU TO DO NOTHING BUT SPRINTS?

UNBELIEVABLE. HAVEN'T YOU EVER DONE ANY TRAINING ON YOUR OWN BEFORE?

JUST TRAIN?

B-BUT...

GOD, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE BLESSED OR JUST DAMN LUCKY TO GET THIS FAR.

WE WERE ALREADY THE GREATEST COUPLE IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD...

mumble mumble...

YOU'RE ONE HOPELESS SQUIRT, YOU KNOW THAT?

C'mon

COME WITH ME.

!!!

!

I'LL SHOW YOU A BASIC TRAINING REGIMEN YOU CAN USE, OKAY?

JUST OVER HERE AFTER THAT RACE AND ALL, I GUESS WE'RE NOT REALLY STRANGERS ANYMORE.

Besides, I don't want you screwing up my pace again.

UMM...

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I KINDA KNOW WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.

ever likes to lose.

It's not like any body.

'SIDES...

DON'T TELL ME THIS ROTTEN SHRIMP DOESN'T RECOGNIZE A RANK S STUDENT ON SIGHT?!!

Owuh?!

PLEASE TELL ME YOUR NAME!!

OW. THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MISS-I-DON'T-KNOW-WHO-YOU-ARE!!!

.....

.....

WAAA

THE "S" COMES FROM "STUDENT COUNCIL," ACTUALLY.

"S" USUALLY STANDS FOR "SUPER" OR "SPECIAL" OR SOMETHING.

SO WHAT DOES THE "S" IN RANK S STAND FOR?

Saba mackarel?

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Anyways, ENJOY!

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TENCHI ACADEMY SWORD-BEARER LIST

DATA

High School, Class 1-F

Height: 150 cm
Weight: 40 kg
Birth Date: January 2
Zodiac: Capricorn
Blood Type: B
Favorite Word: The early bird gets 16 kicks.

月島みのり(TSUKISHIMA MINORI)

FILE 14

UM, ICHIHARA-SAN?

HAVE YOU SEEN HITSUGI-SAN?

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE SKIPPED DINNER.

MY, MY...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

THE MISS DID MENTION SOMETHING ABOUT 'APPLYING HER BODY' DIRECTLY AFTER RETURNING.

I SAW HER ENTER HER TRAINING ROOM, BUT THAT WAS SOME TIME AGO.

!!!!!

#22 - Idiots Who Don't Get Along

SHIZUKU-SAN?

DEAR?

!!!!!

DASH

Is something wrong?

WHOOSH

SHOOP

HITSUGI-SAN.

.....

SO THERE YOU ARE...

WSH

HITSUGI-SAN!

WSH

HITSUGI-SAN!!

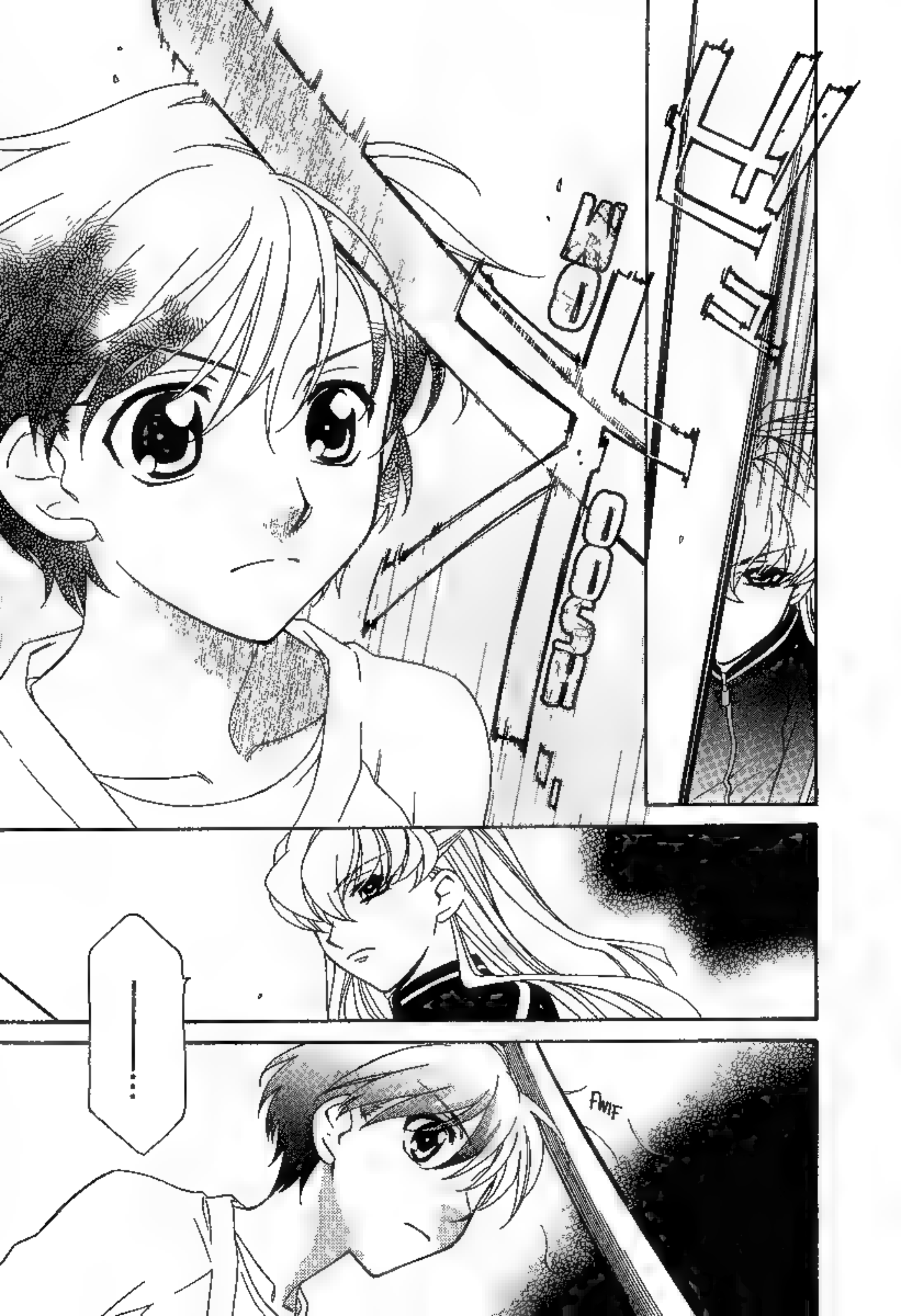
WSH

BESIDES, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CALL IT A DAY.

YOU'RE OVER-WORKING YOURSELF AGAIN, KAICHO.

WSH

HITSUGI-SAN!!


BOOM
FWIF
!...

WHY EVER ARE YOU STANDING THERE?

IT IS DANGEROUS.

SHIZUKU.

YOU'LL DO YOURSELF MORE HARM THAN GOOD IN THE END.

LIKEWISE, HITSUGI-SAN.

I REMEMBER AS FAR AS 50,000, BUT NOT FURTHER.

I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST

HOW MANY STRIKE REPETI-TIONS DID YOU DO?

THAT'S OVER-DOING IT!

TRUE.

IT HAS GOTTEN QUITE DARK OUTSIDE.

IT SEEMS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, THAT I WENT 'BEYOND'.

HEH.

PERHAPS.

I HADN'T NOTICED AT ALL.

IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT SOMEONE WHO'D CHEERFULLY RUN A FULL MARATHON EVEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A *HEART ATTACK* WOULD ALLOW SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP HER.

WOW, WHAT'S THE OCCASION?

NOW, SHIZUKU.

YOU MAKE ME SEEM LIKE SOME KIND OF MONSTER.

MY APOLOGIES, SHIZUKU, BUT...

WOULD YOU CARRY ME?

WHIMP

HUH?

!

DRIP

NOT THE SCARY KIND.

WITH *ABILITIES FAR GREATER THAN THOSE OF MORTAL MEN,* OF COURSE.

YOU MAY JUST BE A MONSTER.

THERE WASN'T ANY BATTLE!! *NOTHING HAP-PENED!!!*

SHIZUKU-SAN, WHAT SORT OF *FIERCE* BATTLE HAPPENED HERE?!!

BLOOD!! YOU'RE GUSHING BLOOD!!

KYAAAAA !!! Miss!!

TA
WAK
WAK
WHAH-TA
WAK
WAK
TA TA TA TA TA TA!!
WAK
WAK
HA!
YAAAAAH!!
HA!--
FWOOSH
.....
WAK
HAIYA!!
WAK
WAK
HOA!!
YAH!!
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME AROUND AGAIN TODAY?
WAK WAK WAK WAK
HOO-OOOA-AAAH!!!
YO, SQUIRT...

Ouch!! Ouchie!! Pain!!

YANK YANK YANK

I SHOWED YOU HOW TO DO A BASIC SELF-TRAINING ROUTINE YESTERDAY, *RIGHT?*

WELL, DO THE REST OF IT *BY YOURSELF! OKAY?!*

B-BUT I CAN'T DO IT ON MY OWN!

YOU'RE MY SHISHO NOW, MIKADON!!

"Mikadon"

AHH!

HELP ME!!

TONG

LISTEN WHEN I TALK TO YOU, GOT IT?

you so did that on purpose

GYAA-AAAA-AAAA-AAAA-AAKK!!!

KER-RACK

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS "MIKADON" CRAP ABOUT, YOU DUMB SQUIRT?!!

IF ONE CERTAIN SOMEONE HEARS IT, SHE WON'T EVER LET ME LIVE IT DOWN!!

DON'T YOU EVER CALL ME THAT AGAIN!! EVER!!!

Y-Yes

SO IN OTHER WORDS, *YER IN MY WAY.*

I MEAN, I'D HAVE TO DROP MY LEVEL DOWN TO MEET YOURS, AND THAT MEANS I DON'T GET SQUAT OUT OF IT.

THINGS DON'T WORK IF I HAVE TO TRAIN WITH YOU.

BUT, SHISHO!!

DAMMIT, DID YOU EVEN HEAR A WORD I JUST SAID?

WHATEVER. ANYWAYS

.....

THERE'S A *GINORMOUS* GAP BETWEEN THE LEVELS THE TWO OF US ARE TRAINING AT, UNDERSTAND?

OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN.

ARGH...

LET'S MAKE THESE YOUR FIRST TRAINING EXERCISE.

SEE THESE STICKS YOU WERE FLAILING AT EARLIER?

SHIT

thuh?

WATCH CLOSELY.

OOH!

SWIP

THOOM!!
BONK

!

WOOO-
OOOW
!!!

OOH...

I SAW SOMETHING I DIDN'T SEE!!!

ACTUAL-LY... I DIDN'T SEE IT AT ALL!!

I SAW IT!

YUP!

WELL, SQUIRT?

DID YOU SEE IT?

.....

COOL!!

BWHAT ?!!

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN UNTIL YOU CAN DO WHAT I JUST DID.

CONSIDER THAT YOUR FIRST HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT.

WHAT-EVER.

SHF

ONCE MORE IN THE NAME OF LOVE! MY MIKADON!!

AH AH AH AH AH AAAH!

NOOO!! DON'T GO, SHISHO!!

SHUT IT!! THERE AIN'T NO LOVE AND I SURE AS HELL AIN'T YOUR MIKADON!!!

WAH

WAH

I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING AT ALL!! C'MOOON! DO IT AGAIN!

HOLD ON...! DO IT AGAIN THEN! DO IT AGAIN!

NOPE, DOIN' NOTHIN!

I WARNED YOU TO WATCH CLOSELY, REMEMBER?

SKF

STILL, THAT SHOULD KEEP HER BUSY ENOUGH SO THAT I WON'T HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HER FOR A GOOD LONG TIME

SKF

TAKING PITY ON THE SQUIRT IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS A MISTAKE

SKF

DAMMIT ...

SA...

AKIRA,

MY, YOU CERTAINLY FOUND YOURSELF QUITE THE ADORABLE DISCIPLE...

YOU AND YOUR WHITE UNIFORM ARE ADORED BY ALMOST THE ENTIRE SCHOOL, M KADO AKIRA.

ARE YOU *SURE* THAT WAS SUCH A GOOD IDEA, *HMM?*

BDMP BDMP BDMP

Did she hear THAT too ?

...SAE..?

WERE YOU SPYING ON ME? DAMN, FIND A BETTER HOBBY, WILL YA?

BDMP

I TOLD YOU I DON'T HAVE ANY FAN CLUBS...

THOUGH, MAYBE WE SHOULD GET THEM TO REGISTER OFFICIALLY. I KNOW! WE COULD CALL THEM *"MIKADON'S LOVE ♥ FACTORY"!*

OH, YES YOU DO. UNOFFICIALLY.

TO SINGLE OUT ONE GIRL FOR VERY CLOSE, VERY *PERSONAL* LESSONS IN THE BASICS OF SWORDPLAY MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN WISE.

I DOUBT YOUR FAN CLUB WILL TAKE IT SITTING DOWN, ONCE THEY FIND OUT.

AND YOU *DID* HEAR THAT !!!

WHEW

SHE D DN'T HEAR *THAT..*

WHAT 'FAN CLUB'? I DON'T HAVE ANY 'FAN CLUBS'

Stupid Sae

ARGH! I'M GOING TO KILL THAT DUMB SQUIRT LATER!!!

MIKA-DON.

POOR DEAR, IT MUST BE SO TOUGH BEING POPULAR...

yeah, whatever

HNPH. CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT.

THE SKILLS I NEED TO WORK ON STRENGTHENING ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOURS.

THIS IS TRAINING FOR ME, AT LEAST.

HM?

IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, AKIRA...

YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE THE TIME TO BE PLAYING AROUND WITH UNDERCLASSMEN.

.....

IF YOU CAN STILL FOLLOW MY DRAW, THAT MEANS I'VE GOT A LOT MORE TRAINING TO DO.

NOT ONLY COULD I FOLLOW YOUR DRAW-SPEED THIS TIME, I COULD TELL YOU'RE GETTING FASTER, TOO.

NO, I MEAN IT.

NOT WITH KUREA AND MINORI HAVING GOTTEN THE JUMP ON US.

LIKE YOU HAVE THE TIME TO GO AROUND SPYING ON PEOPLE'S MORNING TRAINING, EITHER!

ENOUGH ALREADY... I KNOW THAT.

AND FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, YOUR SPEED IS VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF THE KAICHO

MY EYES HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD

YOU MAY NEED LESS THAN YOU THINK.

UNTIL THE TOP IS WITHIN OUR RANGE.

NO, MAYBE JUST HALF A STEP LEFT

SO THAT MEANS WE HAVE ONLY ONE STEP

MAYBE.

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK EVERYTHING'LL WORK OUT ALL NICE 'N PAT LIKE THAT?

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TRUST YOU! *JUST DROP THAT DUMB NAME, OKAY?!!*

BE A GOOD GIRL AND TRUST *INORIN* WHEN SHE TELLS YOU SOME-THING.

Okay?

GOODNESS, YOU ARE SO TERRIBLY CAUTIOUS *MIKADON.*

YOU. YES YOU DEAR.

Later...

DOOO

THINGS WILL NOT GO WELL FOR YOU.

OOM

Tenchi Academy Professor of World History, Hosogi Kazuko.

MAAM ..?

Tenchi Academy Swor Bearer Dormi tory

.....

CHIRP

WALKIN' UP TO SOMEBODY R GHT AS THEY'RE HEADIN' OUT FOR THE DAY AND SAYING STUFF LIKE THAT... IT'S *BAD LUCK*, I TELL YOU!!

I SWEAR, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHE SAID!

CHIRP

AND WHY THE HECK DID SHE CHOOSE *ME*? ME OF ALL PEOPLE?! I'M IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND SHE'S A HIGH SCHOOL PROF!

CHIRP

Meanwhile...

In a comp ete y unre,ated d.rection.

WANKO! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

ARE ALL FORTUNE-TELLERS AND SUCH ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

Bad way to start a day!

Hmm ...?

O-Oh right...

HN ..?

.....

N-NO...

You shouldn't need to heed any of Hosogi sensei's revelations.

They aren't true revelations so much as clever advice based on that person's past experiments. What she speaks of doesn't have any connection to the laws of fortune or karma.

O-OH.

I SEE... OKAY

I have no idea what you just said, but okay

WHOA !!

FWOOM

SHUDDER

Oh....

CALM DOWN, OKAY?! SERIOUSLY! WHEN YOU TURN ON THE *GLOOM AND DOOM*, IT FEELS LIKE ALL THE LIVIN' STUFF AROUND YOU STARTS DYIN'!

WHAT THE HECK?! WHAT'S WRONG, WANKO 2!

Sorry.

Momoka-san... s-such kindness... even for one such as MEEEEE!!

I... I can't believe it

WAAAAAAAH!!

FWOOOO

WAIT! TURN OFF THE DOOM! THINK OF ALL THE POOR LIVING CREATURES!

WHOA WHOA!!

YOU'RE ALWAYS ALL GLOOMY AND STUFF SO IT'S KINDA HARD TO TELL, BUT YOU DO LOOK *EXTRA DARK* TODAY.

YOU CAN TELL ME IF SOMETHING'S BOTHERING YA, OKAY?

.....!

It's... BLANK.

Sorry... It... It's my crystal ball.

My crystal ball.

Yes...

CRYSTAL WHAT?

.....

But...
for some
reason,
three days
ago,
it became
blank.

It
has never
failed me
before.

It
shows
me
the
future.

I...
I don't
know
what to
do.

IS NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE INTO THAT BALL OF YOURS REALLY *THAT* BIG A DEAL?

ummm
....

I GOTTA SAY, I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND YA.

It's not something that requires batteries...

UH... MAYBE THE BATTERIES WENT DEAD?

That...
Isn't
enough...

PROM-
ISE!

STILL, DON'T WORRY, 'KAY? IT'LL START WORKING AGAIN SOMETIME!

That we have managed to come as far as we have... is all thanks to my crystal ball.

Using its powers I've been able to choose the proper opponents for us.

Without it to guide us. Our chances are...are...

WHAT'S GOTTEN US THIS FAR IS OUR *OWN* STRENGTH AND ABILITIES!

WHOA!

BACK UP A SEC!

My crystal ball shows nothing but the truth!

IT HAS EVEN SHOWN ME THAT YOU WILL NEVER MARRY IN THIS LIFE!!

FORTUNES ARE LIKE A FEW WARNINGS OF STUFF TO WATCH OUT FOR, YEAH...

BUT IN A PINCH, I'LL TAKE MY OWN GOOD ARM OVER THAT STUFF *ANY DAY!*

I DON'T NEED *THAT KIND* OF FORTUNE, *THANKS!!*

It's not fortunes... It is THE FUTURE!

SERIOUS-LY...

YOU RELY ON THAT FUTURE SHTICK OF YOURS WAY TOO MUCH.

WANKO, I'VE BEEN THINKIN' OF THIS FOR A WHILE NOW, BUT...

SILENCE

.....

.....

.....

LEANIN' ON A CRUTCH LIKE THAT'S WHAT'S KEEPING US STUCK AT THE BOTTOM OF IT.

AFTER ALL WE WENT THROUGH TO GET UP TO RANK C...

.....

I THINK THERE'S PLENTY OF GOOD FUTURES OUT THERE YOU CAN FIND WITHOUT *THAT.*

NOW, I'M NOT ALL THAT BRIGHT AND I'M SURE NOT GOOD AT COMIN' UP WITH SHARP SAYINGS, BUT...

RUB

But...

It was the only thing I had...

For most of my life...

I have always had it.

W Wait! that isn't what I meant!

AH!

BET YOU CAN TRUST IT MORE THAN YOUR OWN SISTER-IN-ARMS, HUH?

I'M GOING BACK TO CLASS.

RIGHT, I SEE

.....

SLIP

THAT WAS *MY OWN* STUPID FAULT, *NOTHING MORE!!!*

Um...

I-If my crystal ball were working, I would have been able to predict that...

.....

IT'S SURE IMPORTANT TO YOU.

WOMP

M. Momoka-san...

AUGH!! Another banana peel?!!

SLIPPING ON A BANANA PEEL EVERY NOW AND AGAIN IS JUST RIGHT FOR SPICING THINGS UP!!

STMP

STMP

STMP

SEEIN' EVERYTHING BEFORE IT HAPPENS MAKES FOR ONE *BORING* LIFE!

But...

W-wait ...

Momoka-san...

I've.... I've...

.....

ANGERED Momoka san

Oh NO!

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

5' STAGGER ...

EXCUSE ME

What have I done?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO EAVESDROP, BUT I COULDN'T HELP OVER-HEARING YOUR CONVERSA-TION.

YOU'RE INUGAMI ISUZU, RIGHT?

comes...

ANNUL-MENT...

From anger...

comes hatred.

WHRL

DO YOU REMEMBER ME? I'M IN YOUR CLASS. MY NAME'S KIJIMIYA.

and from hatred...

comes...

PARDON ME FOR PRYING, BUT DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YOUR PARTNER?

WHRL

WHRL

GYAAAAAA!!!

FWOOO

THE END!!! THE END IS NIGH--!!!!

O-OH. OKAY.

I'M FINE... I THINK. JUST A LITTLE SURPRISED, THAT'S ALL.

I was too caught up releasing the depths of my MAKAI CHAKRA.

I... I'm sorry I didn't... notice you, there.

OOPS ...!!

PLUNK

YES, YOU'LL DO NICELY. *VERY* NICELY.

GRIN

OH, AND *IMPRESSED.* YOUR POWERS ARE GREATER THAN I'D EXPECTED.

LIKE YOU, I HAVE... *POWERS.*

THE TWO OF US WOULD GET ALONG VERY WELL TOGETHER, I THINK.

WHY NOT JOIN UP WITH *ME* INSTEAD?

INUGAMI-SAN...

Huh ...?

Huh?

IF YOU BELIEVE YOU AND YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS MAY NOT BE THE BEST OF MATCHES...

SO *YOU'RE* THE WALKIN' *BANANA-PEEL FACTORY!!!*

Fell yet AGAIN

'MOPHIN, MOPHA-PHAN...

HEY!

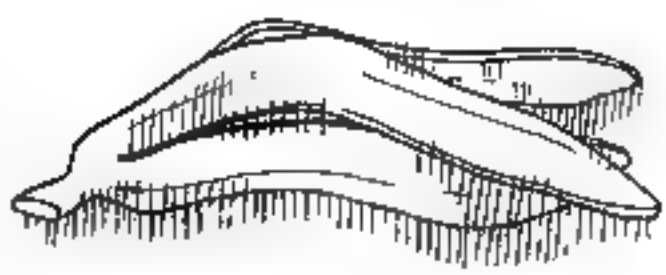
#22 END

ACROSS THE COURSE OF ONE DAY, IT IS SAID THEY CLAIMED AS MANY AS 120 TENCHI ACADEMY STUDENTS AS THEIR VICTIMS...

ONE AFTER ANOTHER THE LETHAL SKINS WERE CAST OUT TO FEED UPON THE UNWARY...

LEGEND OF THE KILLER BANANA PEELS

Kurogane Hayate purported master of the peels fell to food poisoning.



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YOU AND ME, KIJIMIYA OTOHA.

RIGHT.

.....

INUGAMI-SAN...

TO PUT IT BLUNTLY...

Join with... you?

wha ...?

#23 - Between You and the Idiot

AS MY CURRENT PARTNER IS JEALOUS OF ME.

AND WE BOTH HAVE *SOME-THING* OTHERS COULD NEVER HAVE.

PERSONALLY, I BELIEVE SHE'S *JEALOUS* OF YOU.

INUGAMI-SAN...

YOU POSSESS A GREAT AND MYSTERIOUS POWER.

YET YOUR PRESENT SISTER-IN-ARMS REFUSES TO ACKNOWL-EDGE THAT

OF ME?

? Jealous ?

Monika-san...

I SEE...

SO SHE'S JUST PLAIN *STUPID* THEN.

Delicate and complicated emotions like that have never been relevant to Monika-san...

Is part of her vocabulary.

I doubt that "jealousy"

Um...

I... I don't think that is quite right.

REALLY?

I know all of Monika-san's best points very well!

She wouldn't!

LIKE WHAT?

IT'S POINTLESS TO BE PAIRED WITH SOME-ONE WHO DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR BEST ATTRIBUTES.

WHICH-EVER, IT MAKES NO DIFFER-ENCE.

N-NO!!

I'M SURE YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS FEELS THE SAME WAY, DEEP DOWN INSIDE.

Um... her ability to speak her opinion CLEARLY... and...

her KIND-NESS...

Um...

W-well...

Like her...

.....

SO SHE'S AN IDIOT.

.....

She told me once that she has never had a cold in her whole life!

That's very important!

AND she is a very, very HEALTHY person!

OH!

WHILE YOU THINK THE WORLD OF HER...

WHAT OF HER OPIN-ION?

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT SHE MIGHT THINK OF YOU?

URK

Stop calling Momoka san an idiot!!

She's not! She's a nice, wonderful person!!

RIGHT, RIGHT. SORRY.

YOU THINK MOMOKA-SAN IS GREAT OKAY. BUT...

SO THAT MEANS THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE SHE WANTED TO PARTNER WITH VERY BADLY.

ERK

Ack

YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS RECENTLY HAD A DUEL WHERE SHE TRIED TO TAKE SOME SECOND-YEAR AS HER PARTNER, RIGHT?

IF I REMEM-BER COR-RECTLY...

BUT YOUR CRYSTAL BALL SHOWS YOU NOTHING *NOW*, DOES IT?

AAH...

My crystal ball showed me Momoka-san's future. and Takarada-san was nowhere in it!

That alone is impossible...

URK!!

CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY SHE'S OVER THAT OTHER GIRL?

WHO IS TO GUARANTEE THAT THE FUTURE YOU SAW FOR HER IS STILL *TRULY* HER FUTURE?

THE FUTURE IS A THING OF CONSTANT CHANGE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES READING IT SUCH A VALUABLE SKILL.

INUGAMI-SAN.

I BELIEVE YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD KNOW.

MAYBE SHE STILL WANTS HER AS *HER* SISTER-IN-ARMS INSTEAD OF YOU.

YEAAAAH!

klot

NO!!

I can ASK her!

Hey!

IF YOU *CAN*, THAT IS.

THE ONLY MEANS LEFT TO YOU FOR CONFIRMING THAT IS TO ASK HER DIRECTLY.

UNFORTU-NATELY, GIVEN YOUR CURRENT SITUATION...

Sisters! in arms!!

Si...

Momoka san and I...are...

Si...

I I'm leaving now!

DMP

.....

I GET IT! JUST, DON'T SUMMON ANY-THING!!

OKAY! OKAY!

GAH!!

FOOOSH

WE AAAA-AAAR-RRRR-RRE!!!

HUNH.

GUESS I PUSHED A LITTLE TOO HARD.

WHAT DO YOU THINK...

SAGARA-SAN?

KIJI-CHAN?

HEY, WHAT'S WITH CALLING ME BY MY LAST NAME ALL OF A SUDDEN...

.....

WHAT?

WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE SISTERS-IN-ARMS FOR THAT MUCH LONGER AFTER ALL

.....

TRUE, BUT...

THIS WHOLE THING WAS YOUR IDEA, REMEMBER?

OOPS, I MEAN SAGARA-SAN...

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID I WAS BETTER OFF PAIRING UP WITH SOMEONE WHO HAD POWERS LIKE I DO.

Y-YEAH, BUT...

'POOR THING'?

HOLD ON. WHOA!

LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT HERE, MICH...

Y'KNOW, I DON'T REALLY THINK THIS IS SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

THAT GIRL DIDN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WANTED TO SPLIT UP WITH HER SISTER-IN-ARMS.

THE POOR THING...

Y-YEAH...

I DID SAY THAT, BUT--

SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF YOU NOT BEING ABLE TO DEAL WITH A PARTNER WHO WASN'T NORMAL REMEMBER?

OH, AND YOU SAID SOMETHING ELSE, TOO.

I MEAN, YOU'RE COMING OUT OF THIS WHOLE DEAL WITH A BRAND NEW SISTER-IN-ARMS WITHOUT EVEN HAVING TO LIFT A FINGER

RIGHT. SO SHUT UP AND WATCH, OKAY?

SO, SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

ONCE I TAKE HER AS MY SISTER-IN-ARMS, THAT GIRL'S FORMER PARTNER IS FREED UP FOR YOU TO TAKE.

SO THAT'S WHY I CHOSE INUGAMI ISUZU.

YEAH, IT IS!

IT IS THE WHOLE POINT AND THAT'S WHAT WE WANTED RIGHT?!

AND THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT, RIGHT?

THAT WAY, THE BOTH OF US GET PARTNERS LIKE OUR-SELVES, TIDYING UP THIS WHOLE MESS RATHER NEATLY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT GIRL?

SIGH...

WHY'D SHE HAVE TO GET SO CRABBY ALL OF A SUDDEN?

SHEESH...

GOD..

I'M GLAD LIFE'S ALWAYS FUN AND ENTER-TAINING FOR YOU.

SO GLAD THAT I WANT TO POOR YOU.

Get lost. Would you?

SEGA VS NINTENDO

SEE THE PLUCKY SLIMY OF SATURN IS PITTED SEE SLIMY!

NEXT GEN

GAME BOY

nano

SCREEN SO SMALL YOU CAN'T SEE ITH

POINT

POINT

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, AYANA? HUH?

WELL? IS IT? I BET IT IS! C'MON, 'FESS UP AYANA!

♡

SO, YOU WANT TO CLEAN UP OUR UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM OUR LAST MATCH *RIGHT HERE AND NOW?*

THAT'S FUNNY.

Huh?

SCRUNCH

IT'S NEVER EASY FOR A WIFE TO FIND OUT HER HUSBAND'S BEEN SLEEPING AROUND..

HOW'RE YOU HOLDING UP?

BESIDES, *YOU* WERE THE ONE WHO SAID YOUR PARTNER HAS BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY. I WAS SO WORRIED I WENT AND DID A QUICK SECRET NINJA INVESTIGATION FOR *YOU!*

AW, COME ON, AYANA! DON'T BE A *SPOIL-SPORT.*

NOT THAT I ASKED YOU TO.

IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS, *RIGHT?* SO I FOUND HER DOING EARLY MORNING TRAINING ALL CHUMMY WITH ONE OF THE LADIES IN WHITE.

THING'S ARE GOING PRETTY MUCH HOW I EXPECTED.

trust instead

So you went with a...

BE-SIDES ..

WAIT, SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

AND IN A TOLERABLY GOOD DIRECTION, EVEN.

IN FACT, EVER SINCE THAT MATCH WITH YUHO, SHE'S BEEN CHANGING IN LOTS OF WAYS

really

KURO MAY BE A COMPLETE DUNCE, BUT SHE'S A DUNCE WHO HATES LOSING.

dunce

Yeah.

THAT SHE IS.

NO, MAKE THAT A *GODDESS* OF *GOOD* FORTUNE!

SO IN THE END, MY SISTER-IN-ARMS IS A GOD OF FORTUNE TO YOU TWO?

IS THAT IT'S ALL THANKS TO YUHO?

SO THAT'D MAKE YOU A *GOD OF POVERTY* SHACKLED AROUND THE ANKLES OF THAT GODDESS, WOULDN'T IT?

Ah, stop it! You're embarrassing me!

SURE, A TECHNICALITY SAVED HER BUTT IN THE END, BUT SHE *DID* LOSE. I FIGURED SHE'D COME UP WITH SOME WAY TO IMPROVE HERSELF

NO, WAIT MAKE THAT 'DEMON.'

ACTUALLY, IN YOUR CASE, '*SUCCUBUS*' IS MORE APPROPR ATE, ISN'T IT?

PISS-POOR SUCCU-BUS, HUH?

WOW, SUCKS TO BE YOU.

.....

THIS COULD BE BAD.

WHAT?

NO, I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE BAD.

YUKARI...

WHAT IS WRONG, SEMPAI? YOU LOOK, AWFULLY DOUR.

THEY WERE JOGGING TOGETHER, CORRECT?

YES, I DID.

Sprinting actually

MIDOU-SAN'S SISTER-IN-ARMS AND MIKADO AKIRA, TOGETHER...

YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM IS THERE?

.....

IT MIGHT BE WISE FOR YOU TO WARN MIDOU-SAN ABOUT THIS.

I'M IN THE SAME GRADE AS MIKADO-SAN, SO I HEAR A LOT OF RUMORS ABOUT HER.

THAT'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE.

ANYONE WHO GETS TOO CLOSE TO MIKADO AKIRA WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION JUST... VANISHES.

THEY MOSTLY SPEND THEIR TIME HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS, BUT THEY CAN BE A *TRULY* FRIGHTENING GROUP WHEN ANGERED.

THE MIKADO AKIRA FAN CLUB, YUKARI.

YOU DON'T KNOW?

IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE ***HIGHLY TRAINED STALKERS.***

UM, SEMPAI..?

They're a special attack force.

So everyone calls them the A-Team

SERIOUS OR NOT, I DON'T THINK THAT INFORMATION WOULD WARRANT ANY ACTION FROM AYANA.

IT DOESN'T MATTER EITHER WAY, ACTUALLY.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY SOMETHING SERIOUS.

.....

Sigh.

WHAT YOU HAVE SAID IS ONE CONSIDERATION.

YES, THE GIRL IS A ***COMPLETE IDIOT.***

THAT'S RIGHT, MUDOU-SAN'S PARTNER IS, AH, ***NOT SO BRIGHT.*** IN OTHER WORDS, WHATEVER MIGHT BE SAID WOULD FALL ON DEAF EARS.

WHY NOT?

OH.

Aah

My sempai

You do say some terrible things sometimes

Hey!

I AM BEING SERIOUS!

AH, WELL...

SHE IS AN UPPER-CLASSMAN NOW.

THINKING ABOUT HOW BEST TO TAKE CARE OF HER *KOUHAI* IS ONLY NATURAL.

.....

BUT THAT ISN'T THE ONLY THING.

I BELIEVE AYANA IS THINKING MORE ABOUT HOW SHE INTERACTS WITH HER NEW SISTER-IN-ARMS THAN SHE DID WITH ME.

YOU STILL WATCH MIDOU-SAN A LOT...

DON'T YOU?

NON-SENSE. YOU'RE IMAGIN-ING THINGS.

AM I NOW?

BESIDES, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN WE MAY HAVE TO FIGHT THEM.

IS THAT ALL?

YES. IT IS.

I FEEL SHE'S ALLOWING HER PARTNER THAT MUCH FREE REIN *INTENTI-ONALLY.*

TUMP

That's all... it'll be F F EASY!

Umph...

I just have to ask Momoka san what she thinks about me.

Q: MOMOKA-SAN, DO YOU STILL WANT TO PARTNER WITH TAKARADA-SAN?

But. what would be the best way to ask...?

...

BOOM

TMP TMP TMP TMP

I must'nt turn my thoughts to bad out comes...

Wait. I must STOP.

HAAH HAAH

NOOO- OOO- OO!!!

TWITCH

A: 'COURSE I DO! WHY'D YOU HAVE TO ASK SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT?

Attempting to locate someone on this campus outside of the classroom buildings is terribly difficult without my crystal ball.

.....

But before I can ask her, I must first find her.

Ahh ...

If only my crystal ball still worked properly.

Then I would be able to predict Momoka-san's probable answer and formulate an appropriate response.

Oh, look Ants

Tk Tk Tk

FWOOOOOO

I truly can't do anything, can I?

without my crystal ball...

In my mind, at least.

I understand now

What Momoka-san is attempting to express makes perfect sense to me.

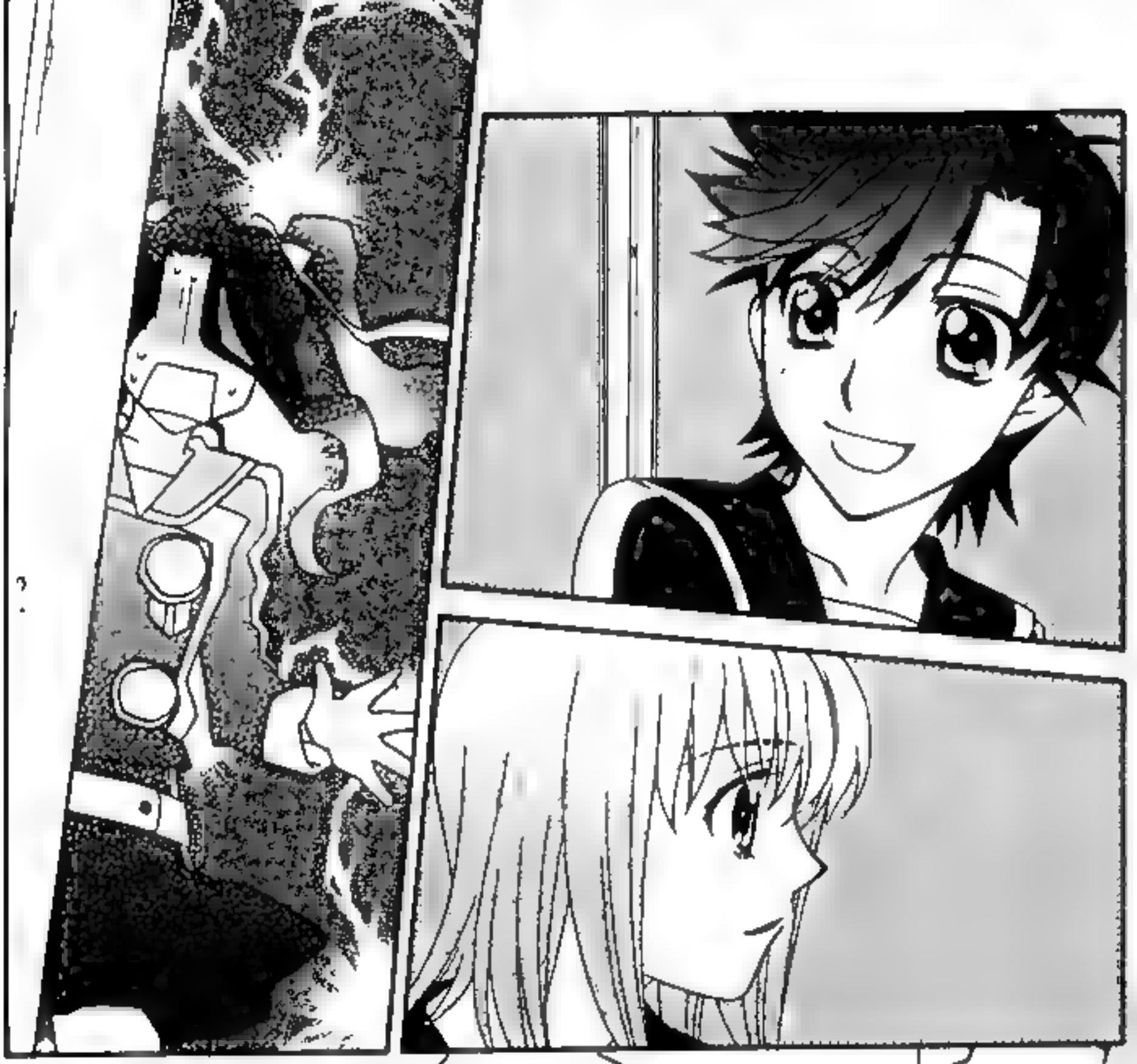
I can think later of what remains to be said.

And when I do, an apology is first.

TOTTER

I must hurry and find her.

.....



He's... waiting

Oh, Momoka san...

And this frighten ingly spicy hot scenario...!

(Of all possible situations it is the one I least wanted to see!!!

There she is!!

Th

*"BOKE AND TSUKKOMI: TERMS USED FOR THE TWO COMEDIANS PRESENT IN A MANZAI (JAPANESE STAND-UP COMEDY) DUO. THE TSUKKOMI (STRAIGHT MAN) AND THE BOKE (FUNNY MAN) TRADE JOKES IN A CASUAL MANNER, OFTEN COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS AND INTERESTS.

Not really enjoying it.

EH HEH HEH... YEAH, YOU TWO ARE SOMETHIN!

GET TO THE PUNCH-LINE

ESPECIALLY WHEN OLKA SLAMS ME AND I GUSH BLOOD ALL OVER!

C'MON, MY *BOKE* AND OLKA'S *TSUKKOMI* ARE THE BEST!

More so than when she is with me, at least.

I guess she does have more fun with Takarada-san.

very much the opposite.

I WANNA GO HOME..

AUGH, NO!! DON'T! MY STOMACH CAN'T HANDLE IT!

I KNOW! I'LL SHOW YOU OUR NEXT BIG GAG!! I'M STILL WORKING ON IT, BUT I'LL LET YOU IN ON IT.

IN THIS ONE, THE BLOOD IS *REALLY* GOING TO FLY!

I doubt they ever get tired of being with each other.

They did grow up together.

Aha ha ha ha! Seriously! Stop it! Please. Rionee!

TMP

...

HA HA HA! YEAH, THAT WOULD MAKE HER EASIER TO DEAL WITH!

SO SHE'S SOFTENED UP A LOT.

YEAH, WE ARE GETTING ALONG BETTER.

HEH HEH. OLKA STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO REACT TO ME..

Anyways.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING ALONG GOOD WITH KIRIYA, NOW.

WELL, UH...

MINE'S ALL 'MY BALL' THIS AND 'MY BALL' THAT...

HER BALL?

GOTTA ADMIT, I'M KINDA JEAL-OUS.

SO YOU AND YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS ARE DOIN' ALL A-OKAY THEN, HUH?

THAT'S GREAT TO HEAR!

OF WANKO'S BALL?!

JEAL-OUS?!

I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU'RE JEALOUS OF IT.

ME?!

OOOH

ALL I CAN TELL IS THAT SHE TRUSTS IT MORE THAN SE TRUSTS ME.

YEAH. THIS BIG ORB SHE SAYS SHE CAN SEE THE FUTURE IN.

Hard on the pride, yknow?

IF IT'S JUST ABOUT SOME BALL...

THEN YOU TWO SHOULD HAVE A BALL...

GET IT?

LIM...

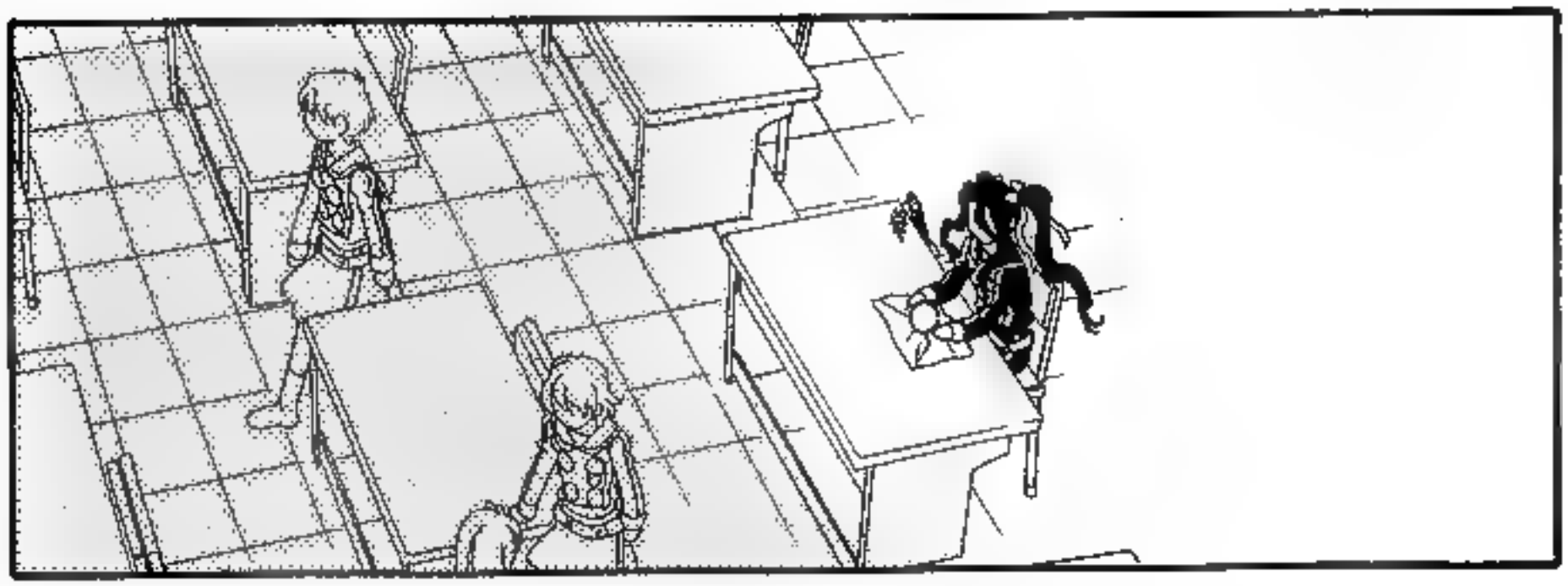
CLENCH

RIO-NEE? THAT WASN'T EXACTLY RIGHT...

YOU'RE CRYING OUT "QUIT BAWLING 'MY BALL! MY BALL!' ALL THE TIME AND COME HAVE A BALL WITH ME!"

YEP!

RIGHT NOW, MOMO-CHAN, I BET IN YOUR HEART OF HEARTS...



Sisters in arms...

And I cannot make her laugh as Takarada-san does.

I don't play around with her like Kuno-sanke-san does.

What does it mean to be some one's "sister in arms"?

Morioka-san and I are...

KLATTA

KLATTA

KLATTA

WELL, GIVEN YOUR EXPRES-SION.

I WOULD GUESS YOU HAVEN'T EXACTLY GOTTEN FAVORABLE RESULTS, HAVE YOU?

But that is ALL we are.

Ah well.

MAKES SENSE, I GUESS.

YOUR AURA IS STAG-NATING.

Ki...

Kijimiya-san...?

They are childhood friends. They will spend time together sometimes.

I It is not unusual ...

I I haven't heard Momoka-san herself confirm what you said.

SHVR

SHVR

SHVR

SHVR

THOUGH TECHNICALLY *YOU'RE* SUPPOSED TO BE THE CLAIRVOYANT ONE, NOT ME

LOOKS LIKE WHAT I TOLD YOU WAS RIGHT, HUH?

Yknow

SINCE YOU SAW *THEM* TOO, RIGHT?

YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS AND *THAT SECOND-YEAR* HANGING OUT ALL BUDDY-BUDDY.

STAB

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT SHE REALLY FEELS...

WHO SAYS SHE'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH?

WE COULD JUST *TEST* HER.

NH!

SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?

OH, I'M NOT MAKING ANY GUARANTEES THAT YOU WON'T GET *HURT*, THOUGH.

EXACTLY. LET'S DO IT DURING THE NEXT HOSHITORI.

THAT WAY YOU'LL KNOW YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS' TRUE OPINION OF YOU.

What ...?

Test her..?

I'M NOT JEALOUS OF WANKO'S THING E 'LEAST, NOT THE WAY R O-NEE WAS SAYING

BUT I WAS IM-MATURE ABOUT IT, NO DENYIN' THAT.

!

HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN HOW IMPORTANT THAT ORB WAS TO HER?

I MEAN, SHE DID SAY SHE NEVER HAD FRIENDS BEFORE

MAKES SENSE SHE'D GET CONFUSED, ASKED ALL OUT OF THE BLUE WHICH IS BETTER, HER CRYSTAL OR ME.

Besides if she gets depressed

GUESS I'D BETTER GO SAY SORRY, THEN.

BAD THINGS might happen

.....

IF SHE PICKS YOU THE TWO OF YOU GO OFF INTO THE SUNSET TOGETHER, HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHY YOU'LL GET TO SEE HER TRUE FEELINGS

BUT IF SHE DOESN'T... WELL, THEN YOU CAN COME SEE *ME*.

In that situation it's obvious which choise Momoka-san would make!

I-I CAN'T

.....

COLOR ME SUR-PR SED.

WANKO DOES HAVE FRIENDS.

NOT very fun at all.

THAT'S TOO DEEP!!

WHOA!! WAIT!! HOLD IT!!

WHMM

WHMM

WHMM

WHMM

TO... TO test Momoka-san... Testing an individual's heart is an act of spies...

Yet... YOU demand that I...

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD!! PLEASE!! YOU'LL WARP THE SPACE-TIME FABRIC!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A LOT OF FUN, GOSSIPING TOGE-THER.

AND THIS AFTER SHE TOLD ME THAT CRYSTAL-THINGIE AND ME ARE ALL SHE'S GOT.

GOOD FOR HER.

WELL.

HUNH.

I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PAIR UP WITH YOU...

AND I'M HOPING THAT WHATEVER THE RESULTS MAY BE, THEY'RE A HAPPY ONE FOR YOU.

GZOOOB

I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK, INUGAMI-SAN.

SO WE HAVE A DEAL. WE'LL DO IT THE NEXT TIME THE BELL TOLLS.

BING

BUT...

I AM GOING TO TAKE THE LIBERTY...

OF SETTING UP A FEW *PRECAUTIONS.*

HELP ME--!!!!

DANGLE

Stuck that way since 2nd period study hall

IS THAT A NEW GAME YOU PLAY?

You'll catch a cold like that. Let's head home.

AH, HAYATE-CHAN!

I KNEW I HADN'T SEEN YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE!

#23 END

UH, NO THANKS. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

Caught

YOU LOOK KINDA DOWN, MOMO-CHAN! WANT ME TO SHOW OFF OUR NEWEST GAG?!

Notes and Credits

And here we go, Chapter 23 finished! Chapters 24 and 25 will probably come sometime this week, I'm trying to finish volume 4 as fast as I can...look forward to the next chap!

Translations:
Deathy80
Editing:
Deathy80
RAWs:
toshokan

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TENCHI ACADEMY SWORD-BEARER LIST

DATA

Middle School, Class 1-D

Height: 155 cm
Weight: 45 kg
Birth Date: November 30
Zodiac: Sagittarius
Blood Type: A
Favorite Word: Kyouryoku (forceful)

雉宮乙葉(KIJIMIYA OTOHA)

FILE 15

.....

Hn?

HEY, KUROGANE

YEAH, PROBABLY AM.

YOU ALL ALONE, MOKA-CHAN?

HUH?

DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF 'CATACLYSM' YOU'RE TALK'N' ABOUT, BUT I GUESS YOU COULD SAY WE HAD A BIT OF A FIGHT

WAS THERE A CATA-CLYSM?

DID'JA GET IN A FIGHT?

THAT'S WEIRD.

Where the heck do you learn those words?

DUNNO.

WHAT ABOUT INU-CHAN?

OFF EATIN' SOME-WHERE BY HERSELF, I SUSPECT.

OHHH

.....

NOW STUFF'S HAPPENING, AND I'M START'N' TO REALIZE... I DON'T GET HER.

BUT Y'SEE

BUT I DIDN'T DO IT TOTALLY W'THOUT THINKING. I GAVE IT GOOD CONSIDERATION 'N MY OWN WAY FIRST

YEAH, I DID LET MOMENTUM GET AHOLD OF ME WHEN I SIGNED THE DECLARATION WITH HER.

TINK

HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN'? IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

I'm so sorry. I didn't notice at all

HN?

Moka-chan

K-Kuro-gane...

LET'S SHARE OUR TROUBLES JUST LIKE WE SHARE A ROOM!

YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT IT, MOKA-CHAN!

GRAB

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO BRING A TEAR TO A GIRL'S EYE..

DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF 'KAY? THIS JUST CROPPED

H-HEY NOW!

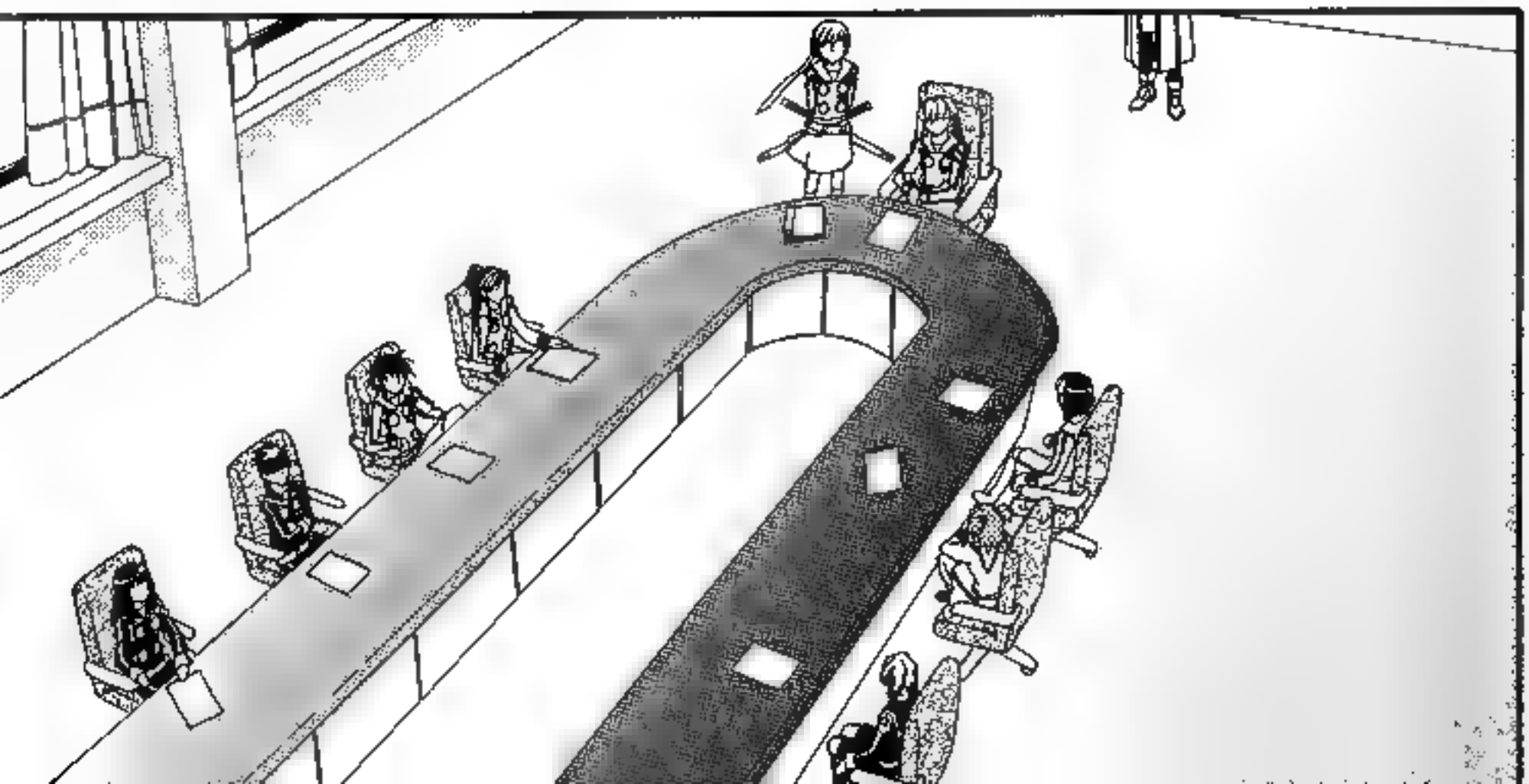
YOU WERE MY FIRST FRIEND HERE, MOKA-CHAN.

BUT...

AND WE SHARE A ROOM, TOO!

WHAT, SO MY TROUBLES RANK UP THERE WITH MIDNIGHT LIVE COMEDY SKITS? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN'?
PERFECT TIMING! MOKA-CHAN WAS JUST ABOUT TO START HER SOB-STORY! WANNA LISTEN?
AO-CHAN!
AH!
I'M SORRY, DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?
HAYATE-CHAN!
Oh, hello, Momoka-chan!

#24 - Two Years on Idiocy Alone



NOW THEN...

AS I AM SURE ALL OF YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE...

MYSELF, AMACHI HITSUGI AND MY SISTER-IN-ARMS, MIYAMOTO SHIZUKU...

HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED TO A DUEL BY RANK 5 PAIR HOSHIKAWA KUREA AND TSUKISHIMA MINORI.

THE DUEL WILL TAKE PLACE IN TWO DAYS TIME.

YAWN

SO SLEEPY

*'TENJO NO MA. ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO 'THE SPACE ABOVE THE CLOUDS'

THE DUEL WILL BE HELD IN THE *'TENJO NO MA'* ROOM...

AND WILL COM-MENCE AT 4 PM SHARP.

NOT ONLY WILL THIS DUEL DECIDE WHO STANDS AT THE TOP OF THE HIGHEST ***ECHELON*** OF THIS ACADEMY'S SWORD-BEARERS...

OFFICIAL WITNESSES WILL BE...

RANK 5 PAIR MIKADO AKIRA AND INORI SAE.

THE TOP TWO SPECIAL-A RANK PAIRS.

IT WILL ALSO AFFECT THE TOP RANKS OF AUTHORITY. TO THE WINNER WILL BE GIVEN *ULTIMATE* CONTROL OF TENCHI ACADEMY.

NO MATTER THE RESULTS OF THE DUEL ITSELF A SEAT IN RANK S, AND HENCE THE STUDENT COUNCIL WILL BE EMPTIED.

MOVING ON.

TATEWAKI HIKARU!!!

AND STUDENT COUNCIL CHIEF AIDE AND DIRECTOR OF BENEFITS...

SO, SO, SO, SOOO LONG~!!

YES!! It's Been SO, SO, SO, SO,

DOOOOM

GIVEN THE CURRENT POINT STANDINGS...

PRECEDENT DICTATES THAT THE TOP PAIR FROM RANK SPECIAL-A BE ELEVATED

THAT WOULD BE THE TWO OF YOU.

HIGH SCHOOL, SECOND YEAR STUDENTS JU ENSHU AND HIMURO MEIKO.

!!

WE DECLINE.

THAT SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF CROSSING BLADES WITH YOU AGAIN, KAICHO.

ENSUI STATES

Psst

Psst

.....

I LEAVE THE DECISION IN YOUR HANDS

AS I RECALL, THE TWO OF YOU WERE ONCE RANK 5, BUT HAD FALLEN DUE TO A FAILED CHALLENGE. WOULD YOU LIKE TO RETURN?

DISILLUSION THE NEWLY-RISEN.

THIS RANK IS MORE *ENTERTAINING*, IT ALLOWS HER TO, HOW SHALL I SAY..

THEN WHY BOTHER CLIMBING BACK UP TO THIS POINT?

MY, I AM SURPRISED

AND FINALLY ...

HOSHIKAWA KUREA-SAN. TSUKISHIMA MINORI-SAN.

Huh?

..

THEN THE OPENING CREATED SHALL BE FILLED BY THE SECOND-HIGHEST OF THE RANK SPECIAL-A PAIRS.

I SEE ...

YOU MAY CHOOSE 'REVENGE' ...

OR YOU MAY VOLUNTARILY RELINQUISH YOUR SWORD-BEARER STATUS.

IT IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.

Y'KNOW, THIS IS KINDA WEIRD.

.....

ONCE A PAIR REACHES TANK 5, THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY GRANTED SWORD-BEARER STATUS IN PERPETUITY.

AS I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE, THE LOSER OF THIS DUEL FORFEITS *ALL* OF THEIR STARS, HOWEVER...

YOU MAY REATTEMPT THE HOSHITORI AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WISH.

WON'T HAPPEN UNLESS ***WE LOSE,*** RIGHT?

WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...

YES.

MY APOLO-GIES.

!

BUT, FOR ONCE, **TATEWAKi iS NOT!!!**

EVERYONE, PLEASE REMEMBER!! IT IS STRICTLY *FORBIDDEN* TO BRING YOUR SWORDS...

TNK

AND ARE REMINDED THAT BEARING THEIR SWORDS AT THE SITE OF THE DUEL IS STRICTLY *PROHIBITED.*

WELL THEN, THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED. OFFICIAL WITNESSES ARE ASKED TO OBSERVE THE *STRICTEST* PUNCTUALITY...

DIS-MISSED.

BA-DUM-DUM

PISH

Gaaa. I'm so tired

Oh. yes Those

My apologies. Miss But could you look at these?

.....

GRACIOUS...

THAT WAS THE *MEANEST* THING YOU'VE EVER DONE TO ME *EVER---!!!*

THAT WAS SO MEAN!!

HiTSUGi-SAMAAA-AAAA!!!

DID YOU EXPECT SOME SORT OF A RESPONSE TO THAT FROM ME?

Hardly. Your puns are beneath my notice

Do not hang on my skirt hem

GOTCHA. BE RIGHT THERE!

Set-up Crew

TODAY'S GYM CLASS IS PING-PONG AND SENSEI ASKED FOR HELP TO SET-UP!

KIBI-SAN!

ARE YOU DONE CHANG-ING?

I'll join you later

STUPID WANKO

SHE DIDN'T SHOW AT ALL DURING LUNCH

TP TP TP

Aha ha..

UM... THAT'S NOT IT. HONESTLY.

AM I DOIN' SOMETHING WRONG? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?!

YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?!

FOR REAL?!

GRAB

I knew it was me!

Ah

ACTU-ALLY...

I THINK I UNDER-STAND.

UM, WHAT INUGAMI-SAN MUST BE FEELING, THAT IS.

I THINK...

MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST A LACK OF CONFI-DENCE.

INUGAMI-SAN ISN'T CONFIDENT THAT SHE'S THE SISTER-IN-ARMS YOU WANTED

SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAN BOTHER A PERSON FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.

SO SHE'S PANICKING AND TRYING AS HARD AS SHE CAN TO AT LEAST BE *USEFUL* TO YOU.

'KAY... WHAT ABOUT THE CRYSTAL-THINGIE?

SEE THAT'S THE THING SHE'S *PLENTY* USEFUL JUST AS SHE IS. SHE'S PRETTY GOOD WITH A BLADE.

I'M SURE SHE UNDER-STANDS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT CRYSTAL BALL OF HERS IS THE ONLY THING SHE'S HAD ON HER SIDE FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.

LETTING GO OF IT IS GOING TO REQUIRE A LOT OF COURAGE ON HER PART.

and her curses

.....

SO, IN OTHER WORDS, 'SIT BACK AND LET HER WORK IT OUT', HUH?

FWIF

FWAP

TMP

OH, SORRY!

TMP

THAT'S MINE.

A STAR?

WHAT THE HECK?

YO, WHO'S THIS BELONG TO?

HN?

THIS GIRL, SHE'S..

UH...

HUH...

I WOULD'VE LEFT WITHOUT IT IF YOU HADN'T SAID ANYTHING.

TMP

THANKS.

YES...

I GUESS THE SNAPS ON MY SHOULDER ARE GETTING A LITTLE LOOSE.

THANKS AGA.N. I APPRECIATE IT.

LIH, SURE.

TAKE CARE.

SQUEEZE

WE ALL NEED TO TAKE CARE.

.....!?

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HER STARS.

ARE EVERY THING.

HER STARS...

TO A SWORD BEARER...

HER STARS ARE SOMETHING PRECIOUS, NOT TO BE GIVEN UP FOR **ANY** REASON.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A SWORD BEARER TO THINK THAT WAY, RIGHT?

ONE'S STARS SHOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL ELSE.

FSHHHHH

DON'T YOU AGREE?

HUH..?

SQUIP

WHAT'RE YOU...

DON'T YOU AGREE?

SISTERS-IN-ARMS ARE **SECOND-**MOST IMPORTANT.

STARS ARE THE **MOST** IMPORTANT

UH, YEAH.

MO-MOKA-SAN.

KIBI...

.....

STARS ARE REALLY, UM..

IMPOR-TANT.

FP

Yikes! The ping-pong tables!

HUH? WHAT THE HECK AM I DOIN' STANDING AROUND HERE?

HN?

.....

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE MY LAST PRIVATE LESSON!!

ZOOOOM

YAAAAAAAA!!!

OWUPH!!

WHAP

MIKAD--

wh-what incredible speed!

SQEEZE

SQEEZE

Oh, these amazing white uniforms...

SHUT IT!!

I TOLD YOU TO NEVER EVER USE THAT NAME AGAIN, REMEMBER2!

GRAAAARGH!!!

I'M GOING TO GO ON AHEAD, OKAY, MIKADO--

CLASS IS GOING TO START SOON.

jeez

WE ALREADY AGREED THAT YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED NEAR ME UNTIL YOU'VE MASTERED THAT TRICK I SHOWED YOU!!

AND WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE, ANYWAYS2!

SQUEEEEEZE

AAUPH!! I give up!

I give up, shisho!!!

TAP TAP TAP

KAPOW

THEN JUST PRETEND I'M NOT HERE, OKAY!

GO DUMP YOUR TRASH AND GET LOST!!

I MEAN, I WAS ONLY PASSING BY TO THROW AWAY SOME GARBAGE WHEN I SAW YOU.

She reminds me of someone else.

W-WASN'T THAT A LITTLE MUCH, SHISHO?

AH...

I TOLD YOU TO STAY THE HELL AWAY UNTIL YOU MASTER THAT SKILL!! I'M NOT SCREWING AR-OUND HERE...

GOT IT?!

DAMNED MICRO-SQUIRT!

:::

OW OWW-OWWIE

BE SURE TO PUT THEM IN THE RIGHT BIN!

THEY WERE IN MY GYM SHOES.

IT'S NON-BURN-ABLE!!

UH-OH, GOTTA HURRY!! SHISHO, THROW THIS AWAY FOR ME, OKAY?

THE BELL!!

JANGLE

ZOOM

WHA?!

HUH?!

OH DEAR.

I GUESS YOUR FAN CLUB HAS FINALLY MADE ITS FIRST MOVE.

SO SOMEONE'S STARTED PICKING ON THE SQUIRT, THEN. IS THERE NO TACT ANY-MORE?

.....

THUMB-TACKS IN HER SHOES, HUH?

?

MY, NOW THAT WAS RUDE TO SAY WITH SUCH A STRAIGHT FACE.

TELL ME YOU AREN'T BEHIND THIS WHOLE 'FAN CLUB' THING.

NOT PARTICULARLY. YOU'RE JUST *OBLIVIOUS* TO WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND YOU.

I HAD TO ASK. I MEAN, YOU'RE PRETTY DAMN KNOWLEDGE-ABLE ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.

BESIDES, IF I WAS GOING TO BULLY SOMEONE, I WOULDN'T GO THROUGH INTERME-DIARIES. I'D DO IT MYSELF.

And I'd use a kenzan, not tacks.

ALL RIGHT. I GET IT, I GET IT.

*KENZAN. A SMALL BED OF SHARP SPIKES USED AS A BASE FOR FLOWER ARRANGING.

SAY THAT AGAIN, WANKO.

HUH?

I...

That F for this one hoshitori I will not assist you.

I said ...

N-Not in a-any fash-ion.

YOU DON'T WANNA FIGHT THIS TIME?

YOU WANNA TAKE TODAY OFF OR SOMETHIN'? BUT WE'VE ALREADY RUN SMACK INTO THE BATTLE ZONE!

N-NO

That isn't what I meant.

WHAT SHE MEANT WAS THIS!

WISH

!!

KRAK

SKSHHHH

HI THERE.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE FACING THE TWO OF *US*, TODAY.

YOU!

.....

WANKO ...

WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON HERE? THAT GIRL'S YOUR CLASSMATE, RIGHT?

.....

Y Yes. She is.

Momoka-san today. If you can best her without me...

and successfully steal her star then...

Then I...

WHAT ..?

.....

I'm going to have our sister-hood...

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU SAYIN'?! WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THIS?!!

B-But..!

If you can successfully take her star without me, then I'm unnecessary to you!

That means I--

KRAK

GONG!!

GAK!!

MOMOK..!

ANNULLED !!

THEN SHE'S GOING TO BREAK UP WITH YOU SO THAT SHE CAN JOIN ME.

HAS DECIDED THAT IF YOU CAN STEAL STARS WITHOUT HER...

!

THIS SHOULDN'T SURPRISE YOU. YOU'VE ALREADY SAID YOURSELF THAT YOU DON'T NEED HER SPECIAL POWERS.

HERE, LET ME FINISH HER EXPLANA-TION FOR YOU.

NAH, DON'T THINK I WILL.

YOU SEE

INUGAMI-SA-- NO, I MEAN *ISUZU*...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU.

ME 'N MY PARTNER ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME IMPORTANT TALKIN'!

BE POLITE AND HANG BACK FOR A BELL OR TWO, *OKAY?!*

AND I HAVE MY *KOTODAMA*.

SHE HAS HER CLAIRVOY-ANCE...

"*KOTODAMA*. A MYSTICAL ART THAT USES THE POWER OF WORDS TO CONTROL AN OBJECT"

WE ARE *TWO OF A KIND*, AFTER ALL.

BUT I DO. I THINK THE TWO OF US WILL GET ALONG FAMOUSLY.

THEN YOU CAN JUST LET ME TAKE YOUR STAR.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS...

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

DON'T GET ME WRONG. I DON'T WANT TO *FORCE YOU* TWO INTO SPLITTING UP. YOU CAN DECIDE WHICH WAY YOU WANT TO GO.

NOT A BAD TRADE, SINCE I'LL GET ISUZU THEN.

HOWEVER IF YOU THINK YOU DON'T *NEED* HER, THEN I'LL LET YOU HAVE MY STAR.

SO WHAT'S YOUR DECISION?

WHAT'S MORE *IMPORTANT* TO YOU?

YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS...

NO, NOT REALLY. IT'S JUST THAT TO SUCCESSFULLY ADVANCE IN THE HOSHITORI, ONE SOMETIMES NEEDS METHODS LIKE THESE.

.....

SO YOU WANNA MAKE A DEAL.

OR YOUR STARS?

I've already given you your decision.

Not that this matters

MORE LIKE A *CON JOB*, HUH?

THWAK

SMIRK

FSH

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

THEN YOU'RE *NOT* GETTIN' MY STARS.

STAB

.....

SO YOU'RE TAKING YOUR STARS OVER ISUZU, THEN?

COOL. LET ME--

SHF

OKAY.

AND YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' ISUZU...

GRAWR

NEITHER

!!!!

YEAH. AND I TOLD YOU I'M NOT HANDIN' OVER EITHER!!

UM...

YOU DO REALIZE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A DEAL, RIGHT?

YOU TAKE ONE OR THE OTHER, *NOT BOTH.* IT DOESN'T WORK AS A DEAL OTHERWISE.

WHOB

This is getting us nowhere!!

HUH ..?

?

WAIT.

WHAT KIND OF ANSWER WAS THAT..?

?

WHAT'S WRONG, KIJI-CHAN?

DIDN'T YOU DO THAT THING OF YOURS?

THE *KOTO-DAMA*?

I DID! I SWEAR!

IT'S JUST *NOT WORKING!!*

THE WORDS AREN'T BINDING HER CON-SCIOUS-NESS.

THIS HASN'T EVER HAP-PENED BEFORE!

PSHHHHHHH

Y'KNOW SOME-THING?

ALL THOSE COMPLICATED PLOTS AND TRICKS YOU'RE TALKIN'...

FORGET 'EM! ALL THAT 'ROUND-THE-BUSH CRAP TICKS ME OFF

YOU REALLY WANNA SPLIT UP WITH ME?! I'M THINKIN' NOT!!!

Y Yes?!

WANKO !!

R Right! If pressed th then I have to confess that the latter is my preference...

SEE, I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT YOU YET.

AND I DON'T WANT TO SPLIT UP WITH YOU, NEITHER

WE CAN DECIDE IF WE WORK GOOD TOGETHER *AFTER* WE GET DONE KNOWIN' EACH OTHER!

TEAR

Monoka ...

san ...

.....

IF YA WANT SOMETHIN', *GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT,* GOT IT?!!

GRAAAAH

!

YOU WANT MY PARTNER? *FINE!!* BEAT ME FAIR AND SQUARE AND YOU CAN *HAVE HER!!!*

WELL I'M JUST GONNA HAVE TO WIN, THEN!! ONCE I WIN, PROBLEM'S GONE, OKAY!

ACK!!

BA-THUMP

A- According to the declaration you just made. Should you lose to her. you will lose both your stars AND me.

Momoka-san?

But, um...

I think.

HOLY CRAP, SHE IS A TOTAL IDIOT!!

That's what some call a slight inconsis-tency

YOU JUST HAVE TO BEAT HER NOR-MALLY.

OH, POOR YOU. BUT YOU CAN STILL GET THAT GIRL AS YOUR NEW PARTNER IF YOU WANT.

NOT WHEN HER IQ'S IN THE SINGLE DIGITS..

NO WONDER IT DIDN'T WORK. IT WOULDN'T

HEH... HEH HEH...

YOU SKIPPED THE HOSHITORI AGAIN? TO DO WHAT NOW? YEESH...

Yeah, we're finished here

THERE'S SOME REALLY INTERESTING STUFF HAPPENING OVER IN RANK C LAND WANNA GO WATCH?

RSTL

Yeah!

HEY. YOU TWO!

Aha! there they are!

YOU DONE?

#24 END

NO. BUT WHY DON'T YOU CLIMB DOWN, CHESHIRE CAT, AND LET ME BEAT YOU

I CALL IT "JUN-JUN DU JOIE-TOIE AND THE SECRET CHAMBER"

OOH, DID YOU WANNA SEE "IT," AYANA?

FLASH FLASH

Notes and Credits

Translations:
Deathy80
Editing:
Deathy80
RAWs:
toshokan

Chapter 24 finished. Had a busy weekend so it's a little later than I'd hoped, but oh well... Anyways, chapter 25 will come somewhere this week, and if i feel like it i'll do the bonus chap of vol 4 this week too.

Enjoy! =)

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TENCHI ACADEMY SWORD-BEARER LIST

DATA

Middle School, Class 1-A

Height: 152 cm
Weight: 42 kg
Birth Date: April 3
Zodiac: Taurus
Blood Type: O
Favorite Word: Kyouryoku (cooperation)

猿楽未知(SAGARA MICHI)

DOOM

DOOM

THEY'VE BEEN AT IT FOR THREE FULL BELLS NOW.

A-HA!

THERE THEY ARE!

RSTL

RSTL

NEVERMIND TAKING STARS, THEY'VE JUST BEEN MOUTHING OFF AT EACH OTHER FOR THE LAST TEN MINUTES OR SO

SOMETHING ABOUT SWAPPING SISTERS-IN-ARMS OR NOT.

WHAT, AGAIN?!

Does she ever learn?

YEP!

THAT'S YOUR ROOMMIE OVER THERE.

Huh?

HEY, THAT'S MOKA-CHAN!

RSTL

#25 - Battle for Idiots

NO. NO SHE DOESN'T.

Enough with the inane comments thank you

SOMETIMES YOU SAY THE *GREATEST* THINGS, Y'KNOW THATZ

THEY'RE NOT FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO STEAL *STARS*, THEY'RE OUT TO STEAL EACH OTHER'S *WIVES*.

O~H, I GET IT!

A-HA——H

THEN I SEE NO PROBLEM WITH TAKING THEM FROM YOU.

IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH THOSE CONDI-TIONS...

YOU LOSE AND YOUR STARS *AND* SISTER-IN-ARMS ARE MINE.

TCH.

AND HERE I WAS BEING NICE AND TRYING TO GO EASY ON YOU.

SWSH

UH, *NO*. I'LL PASS.

DMP

DON'T HATE US WHEN YOU GET HURT, OKAY?

COME ON, MICHI, LET'S DO THIS!

NO! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

M-MICHI..?

HUH?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

.....?

MOMOKA-SAN?

EVEN IF I DID FIGHT, I WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP, RIGHT?! SO DO IT YOUR-SELF!!

BE-SIDES!

YOU TOLD ME THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO A SINGLE THING THIS TIME!

GRUMBLE

RRGH ...

YOU ARE USE-LESS.

!

I CAN HANDLE THIS JUST FINE ON MY OWN!

STAB

STAB

STAB

SWASH

YOU HAVE A POINT.

OKAY.

RIGHT.

CHK

GOD!

NUH-UH!

EVEN IF I DID, YOU'D JUST TELL ME TO GET LOST!

OH, HELL NO!

YOU COULD JUST ASK NICELY FOR MY HELP Y'KNOW!!

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT?!!

U

UH...

WE'VE GOT LESS THAN TWO BELLS LEFT, Y'KNOW..

LH, 'SCUZE ME...

MIND IF WE GET START-ED?

!!!

BESIDES, I DON'T NEED MORE THAN *TWO SECONDS!!*

BZAK

URK!

SH-SHUT UP, I *KNOW* THAT!!

UM, WHAT'S GOING ON?

can't tell who's fighting whom

NO CLUE ...

None

THIS IS EMBAR-RASSING ON SO MANY LEVELS..

Ooh my heart's racing!

To speak the unvarnished truth. I have no confidence in the outcome!

Momoka-san, so brave and courageous a plan is very like you. but this situation is different!

NO.

Please allow me to !

Momoka-san She is gathering dark elements to her!

Oh NO!

YOU STAY PUT, WANKO.

FWOOOOOO

Y'KNOW... SOMETIMES YOU SAY THINGS THAT *CUT* STRAIGHT TO THE HEART...

I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW THIS MUCH ABOUT ME ALREADY...

ANYWAYS, JUST YOU DIT BACK AND RELAX, OKAY?

SHE SAID SHE'S GOING TO HANDLE THIS ALONE.

THE TWO OF US GANGING UP ON HER DON'T FEEL RIGHT.

B- But..!

FWOOOOOO

ONCE I SAY I'M GONNA WIN.

CHK

PERIOD !!

DMP

I WIN!

GYA- AAA- ARGH!!

KRAKOOOOOM

LIGHTNING, I SUMMON THEE!!!

KYAAA !!!

AND RIGHT AFTER SHE GOT DONE WITH THAT COOL ONE-LINER!!!

HOLY CRAP!!

FWOOSH

FIDGET

FIDGET

FIDGET

PSHHHHHH

MMNo!

Momoka san..!!

HA HA!! HOW'D YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED MAINLAND MAGIC²!!

I..I

NEVER SAID KOTO-DAMA WAS MY ONLY POWER, NOW DID--...

KRAK

UNF

.....!!

WHAT THE..?!

SAME STUFF YOU ARE.

A few sparks and some pops?

SKSH

SKSH

SKSH

I HIT YOU DEAD CENTER WITH THAT!

N-NO WAY!

PSHHHHH

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU MADE OF?!

SLAM

YOUR WIMPY LITTLE TRICKS JUST DON'T WORK ON ME!

NO, WAIT...

HER POWERS ARE INCREDIBLE...

THEY'RE *FRIKKEN' TERRIFY-ING!*

SHE'S THE REAL DEAL, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

INUGAMI ISUZU.

HER.

SERIOUSLY, WHO DO YOU THINK MY PART-NER IS?

POINT

Whap

P

Whap

ALL JOKING ASIDE, *THAT GIRL'S* POWERS COME STRAIGHT FROM HELL.

.....

WHAT ..2!!

DOOOM

SURE, WE ONLY PAIRED UP A LITTLE BIT AGO, SO I DON'T KNOW SQUAT ABOUT HER YET

BUT *THIS ONE THING* I KNOW FOR SURE IS TRUE.

"That girl"

FOR THREE NIGHTS AFTER THAT, WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP IT WAS LIKE THIS GIANT *VISE* CLAMPED DOWN ON ME WHILE I GOT SHOWN DREAMS STRAIGHT OUTTA *HELL*.

SHUDDER

.....

DURING THE HOSHITORI, THERE WAS THIS ONCE WHEN I BOTCHED THINGS UP REAL GOOD AND GOT MYSELF CAUGHT IN ONE OF HER SPELLS.

TRUST ME, THAT 'MAGIC' YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT, IT'S NOT EVEN IN THE SAME LEAGUE.

HECK, WHAT SHE'S GOT IS BLACKER, NASTIER AND *WAY* MORE SINISTER.

TO BE HONEST, I *REALLY* PITY THE GIRLS WHO GO UP AGAINST HER IN THE HOSHITORI. WATCHING THEM MAKES MY HEART HURT.

SHE'S THE CREEPIEST GIRL IN THE ENTIRE WORLD...!

WHOA! HOLD IT!!

THAT'S *NO WAY* TO BE TALKING ABOUT YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS!!!

hope they made it to the after- life okay

"Sinister"?!

There is much more I need to learn...

Y- You're too kind.

SHE TOOK IT AS A COMPLI-MENT!!!

Um ...

FIDDLE

FIDDLE

N- NO...

ISUZU!!

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND THERE AND TAKE THAT?!

WHAT'S THE POINT IN STAYING WITH SOMEONE WHO INSULTS YOU LEFT AND--

WOOSH

WHAT I'M TRYIN' TO SAY IS...

COMPARED TO THAT *FREAKY* POWER WANKO HAS--

DON'T GET ME WRONG, HERE.

KRAK

UNH..!!

CARPET-STATIC ZAPPY-THING...

.....

GAH!

YOUR DINKY...

WUSSY...

NGK!

あ!!

あ

あ

HURT LESS THAN A BUG-BITE, THAT'S WHAT!!!

GOOOOONG

D...

THERE'S ANOTHER BELL.

GOD THEY SPENT ALMOST FOUR WHOLE BELLS JUST *YELLING* AT EACH OTHER.

KIJI --!!

NH...!

SKSHH

ONE MORE THING.

OH YEAH.

Slap

Slap Slap Slap

.....

YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY!!

YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, MICHI!

Rgh!!

SHE DOESN'T REALLY WANT TO SPLIT UP WITH YOU, DOES SHE?

YOUR SISTER-IN ARMS...

KRAK

RPH!

.....

HEH... DON'T BE STUPID

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

SO WHY'S SHE HANGING BACK, THEN?

I MEAN, THINK A SEC. IF SHE REALLY DID WANT TO DO THAT, WHY ISN'T SHE HELPING YOU? THE TWO OF YOU COULD GET MY STAR IN NO TIME FLAT.

OF COURSE SHE WANTS US TO BREAK UP

!

BUT I DO KNOW THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

NNNGH

I HAVE NO IDEA.

SHE *HATES* ME.

BECAUSE SHE'S THE ONE WHO *STARTED* THIS WHOLE THING.

.....

DID YOU EVEN *BOTHER* TO MAKE SURE SHE WANTED THE SPLIT BEFORE YOU STARTED THIS?

THERE, SEE?

NEITHER OF YOU IS ON THE SAME PAGE AS THE OTHER

I NEVER *WENT THAT FAR* AND YOU KNOW IT!!

WAIT A MINUTE!!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL GET ALONG BETTER WITH SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW *AT ALL*?!

SERIOUSLY. YOU HARDLY EVEN KNOW YOUR CURRENT PARTNER.

Quit making stuff up!

W-WELL ...

SAME THING! NOW SHUT UP!

YEAH.

THOUGH WHEN YOU LOSE, IT'S *ENTIRELY* YOUR FAULT AND YOUR FAULT *ALONE.*

SO YUKO AND I ARE AS GOOD AS WE ARE BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER PERFECTLY, RIGHT?

Gotta agree

THAT'S SOME PRETTY GOOD POINTS THERE, MOMO-CHI.

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR PARTNER

We know each other perfectly, too!

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D IMPROVE LIKE THAT.

SWORD-BEARERS HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO STEAL ONE STAR.

THAT MEANS THE TWO OF THEM HAVE TO TRAIN TO GROW *AS A PAIR.*

SEEING AS NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A *TOTAL PINHEAD* YOU ARE, YOU STILL KNOW YOURSELF

GOING BY THAT LOGIC, YOU'RE PROBABLY ONE OF THE STRONGEST FIGHTERS HERE

OH, BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE A PAIR ALL BY YOURSELF

Huh?

.....

.....

AND THIS ACADEMY ISN'T SO NICE A PLACE TO GO EASY ON THE WEAK.

BUT THERE YOU GO AND DECIDE THAT YOU TWO WON'T EVER GET ALONG, WITHOUT EVEN TRYING TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

How strong was I...?

Back then...

GETTING STRONGER 'AS A PAIR!...

HUNH.

I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT TRYING TO FIND ANY OF THAT OUT

SHE'S GOT SOME SKILLS OF HER OWN, SO WHY DID SHE COME AS A BODY-DOUBLE FOR HER SISTER?

Hmmm

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE NITWIT

It'll be okay.

C'mon, Jun Jun, cheer up!

KRAK

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU'VE GIVEN ME SUCH A *BURNING* STARE.

WHAT'S UP, AYANA?

HMH?

What? So you want a hug, too?

YES, IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE WANTED TO KILL SOMEONE THIS BADLY.

OH, SHE'S JUST *JEALOUS* OF US, HAYATE-CHAN.

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

RIGHT, THEN!!

WHAT SAY WE FINISH THIS, 'KAY?!

BEIN' STUCK FIGHTING BY YOURSELF ISN'T TOO COMFY, IS IT?!!

NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOUR SKILLS ARE, FIGHTIN' SOMEBODY THEY DON'T WORK AGAINST DOESN'T FEEL SO GOOD, HUH?!

KRAK

MO MO KA... SAN ...

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY SHE'S GOT ME!!

.....!

BET'CHA WANKO'D FEEL THE SAME WAY!!

WHAT SOMEBODY WHO'S TRYIN' HER HARDEST TO KEEP UP WITH HER PARTNER... MIGHT REALLY BE FEELIN'!

TWITCH

KRAK

KRAK

SEE, I FORGOT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT SOMEBODY WITH POWERS LIKE YOU...

I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE A PRETTY BIG MISTAKE MYSELF, TOO.

SUP

AH!!

OH CRAP !!

I'M GONNA WIN!!!!

TODAY ...

SO AS AN APOLOGY TO YA, WANKO...

WH-KRAK

O-Oh! Yesp!

Huhp

WANKO!!

WE'LL FIX THAT ORB OF YOURS YET!

ONCE I'M DONE HERE, LET'S GET TOGETHER AND THINK, 'KAY?

SKSH

SKSH

SKSH

SKSH

SKSH

Momoka-san!

I would really like that!

O-Okay!

AND YOUR STAR IS MINE!!

ONE LAST STRIKE...

ALL RIGHT!

DMP

GAPH!!

THWAK

GOOOOOOONG

AH!!

MI...

WHA...

WHUMP

MICHI...
2!

FWE-
FWE-
FWEE

.....

We must prepare a blood transfusion imme diately!!

AAAH!! YOU've lost so much blood!

SHAKE SHAKE

Oh no!

Momoka-san! Momoka-san!

WON'T NEED A TRANS-FUSION...

N-NO...

Don't shake me

ALL STUDENTS PLEASE RETURN TO CLASS IMMEDIATELY

THIS CONCLUDES THE HOSHITORI

DUNNO. MAYBE.

WAIT, YOU'RE ALLOWED TO THROW YOUR SWORDS?

Whoa. "Nosebleed-Blade"!

YOU...

MICHI ...

STUMP

So the whole mess winds up being a draw huh.?

I DON'T WANT US TO SPLIT UP AFTER ALL!

I WANT TO STAY PARTNERS WITH YOU!

KIJI-CHAN!!

WHA?! YES?!!

TWITCH

Y-YEAH... BUT...

IF YOU WANTED TO STAY TOGE-THER, THEN WHY'D YOU GE N HER WAY THERE AT THE END? YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

HUH...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'd lose. But that's about it

Um.

B-BE-CAUSE..

I DIDN'T WANT TO WATCH YOU LOSE!

BECAUSE I'M YOUR SISTER-IN-ARMS!!

YOU WERE JUST USING THAT AS AN EXCUSE!

YOU SAID MY POWERS CREEP YOU OUT--

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO HATED ME!

YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO ANNUL OUR SISTERHOOD, SO YOU TOOK SOME THINGS I SAID AND INTERPRETED THEM IN THE WORST POSSIBLE WAY!

They are all idiots.

There they go again.

WHA?!

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT COMPLICATED.

NO! I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME...

.....

BUT... I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT YOU HATED ME...

I... I KNOW YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH SOMEONE USELESS LIKE ME...

BUT I PROMISE I'LL TRY AS HARD AS I CAN TO HELP!

SAY WHA?!

WAIT A MINUTE.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE USELESS!

Ah...

.....

.....

.....

UM...

Well

WHAT SAY, TH'S ONE TIME...

6-GOOD THING THE BATTLE ENDED IN A DRAW, HUH? THAT WOULD HAVE REALLY MESSED THINGS UP!

IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ALL JUST A LITTLE M SUNDER-STANDING!

Y-YEAH!

YEAH.

It sure is

THOUGH, IT WOULDA BEEN NICE IF YOU'D FIGURED THIS ALL OUT *BEFOREHAND*

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

YOU TWO BUDDY-BUDDY AGAIN?

SO...

EVERY-THING'S ALL SORTED OUT THEN?

STAGGER

AH HA HA... HA... UM...

OH ...!

LIKE HELL!! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!!!

BLOOSH

We pretend none of this ever happened!!!

GAH!!

Good fight! See ya'

THWAP

SO YOU HIT ME WITH A FULL-POWERED CHOP TO THE BACK OF THE NECK?!!

I was only trying to stop your nosebleed...

B-But...

That hurt, y'know

WANKO!! WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!

You RUB their shoulders

RSTL

.....

STRANGELY, I FEEL AS IF AN INCREDIBLY LONG OPENING ACT HAS FINALLY COME TO A CLOSE.

PERHAPS I'M IMAGINING IT.

IS THAT JUST A WAY OF SAYING FALL IS GOING TO END SOON?

And so everything ends ..

For the moment.

SHIZU-KU...

?

FWOOO

Next time: The main attraction.

#25 END

To be continued in Volume 5!!

MOMOka-san, wait! You're still bleeding!!

BUT ANYWAYS, GET BACK HERE, VOL. TWO!!

DMP

LET'S HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO THE RANK B AREA

WOW. RANK C IS PRETTY IMPRESSIVE THESE DAYS...

Are they even allowed to end a GBG like this?

Yeah, it is kinda worm-out

No idea

AH HA HA...
MAN,
THAT WAS
EMBARRASSING.

LET'S FORGET
IT EVER
HAPPENED,
OKAY?

Notes and Credits

Translations:
Deathy80
Editing:
Deathy80
RAWs:
toshokan

Chapter 25 is done! Took me a bit longer as I expected, but the delay was mostly because I picked up a new project (Variante). Expect Chapter 25.5 (bonus chapter) in the next 3 days!

Enjoy! ^_^

Character Popularity Poll Results

We ran a popularity contest where the winner would be the main character in a bonus story.

- 1st - Kuga Jun 110pts
- 2nd - Shizuma Yuho 20pts
- 3rd - Mudou Ayana 17pts
- 4th - Amachi Hitsugi 16pts
- 5th - Kurogane Hayate 13pts

- 6th - Tarewaki 12pts
- 7th - Miyano-San & Inu 11pts
- 8th - Yukari 8pts
- 9th - Shabazou 5pts
- 10th - Mizuchi & Judge 4pts
- 11th - Moka 3pts
- 12th - Benibachi 2pts
- 13th - Riona & Ouka & Sou 1pt

Jun's tally got that ginormous mostly thanks to block votes, but even without them included, she still got first place by a mile, so I left them in. Thank you to everyone who participated! To those who won a sketch from me, please have patience. I'll announce when they've been sent.

HEY, EVERYONE! THE STONUS BORY STARTS ON THE NEXT PAGE!
DON'T CALL ME "HIME"!
HIME~!!! WE GOT A 1-2 FINISH!! ISN'T THAT GREAT, HIME?
OW! WAIT, OW OW OW! HEY THAT OW HURTS!
OWCH!!

?

Scared of what, Yuho?

The tests or the shots?

Jun...

I'm scared

What's scaring me is..

Those don't scare me at all.

BLINK

What scares you is...

What...?

#Bonus - Idiots In Order

Kuga Jun.

Tenchi Academy Middle School, 3rd Year.

SHEESH..

WHATTA DREAM

I HAVE NO IDEA.

DO YOU REMEMBER IF YUHO WAS SCARED OF ANYTHING?

HEY, SOUDA-CHAN?

Souda: Yuho's (Jun's sister-in-arms) former roommate

.....

AND I HAVE NO CLUE AS TO WHY YOU'RE SLEEPING IN YUHO'S BED, KUGA-SAN.

In a school where the rule is all sword-bearers be paired..

She has received special permission to wield two blades– one for herself, and one for her partner who is on a medical leave-of-absence.

Oh.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME YUHO SPENT THE NIGHT AT A HOSPITAL.

SHE WAS GRUMBLING ABOUT SOMETHING..

But what was it..?

#BONUS
Idiots in Order

HEYA, AYANA!

WHAM

AH!

うずら

MASURAO ?!!

IT'S "SOUDA"! AND IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU REMEMBERED THAT, MUDOU-SAN!!

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, MASURAO-SAN.

I'LL CLEAN THIS UP NOW.

Heeey. What am I garbage?

DRAG

EXCUSE ME...

"THE KANJI CHARACTER FOR 'KAWA' LOOKS LIKE 3 VERTICAL LINES IN A ROW.

FIRST, I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO GET THE HELL OUT OF MY BED!

IT'S OKAY, HAYATE-CHAN. NOW THE THREE OF US CAN MAKE THE "KAWA" KANJI!

IF YOU WERE LONELY, YOU COULD'VE JUST CALLED ME!

YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!

JEEZ, AYANA!

IF YOU WERE TOO LONELY TO SLEEP BY YOURSELF, YOU SHOULD'VE JUST SAID SOMETHING!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO ROUGH, Y'KNOW!

A PEEPING TOM HAS BEEN RUNNING LOOSE AROUND THE DORMS.

RECENTLY...

REALLY? OOH, WHAT REASON?

WHAT?

Oh my! Is this a confession?

AND JUN...

USUALLY, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHERE THE HELL YOU ARE, BUT TODAY I DRAGGED YOU HERE FOR A REASON.

IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY RIGHT TO YOUR SUSPECT'S FACE?!

.....

AND I THINK THAT PEEPING TOM IS YOU!!

Well?

'FESS UP!

NO NO NO, HAYATE-CHAN, WAIT.

Even if you doubt me

THEN, YOU WEREN'T PEEPING ON THE FIRST YEAR BATHS LAST NIGHT?

SO YOU'RE *NOT* THE PEEPING TOM, JUN-JUN!

O~K

DAMM T

THIS WOULD ALL BE SO MUCH EASIER IF IT WAS YOU

WOW, YOU LOOK DISAP- PO'NTED, AYANA.

REALLY disappointed

WELL, THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY MAJOR DAMAGE YET.

SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO GET SECURITY GUARDS OR BR'NG OUT OUR SEMPAI IN WHITE. THAT'D JUST MAKE THE RUCKUS BIGGER.

SO THEN SHE PICKED US2

That's kinda forceful

HUH?!

OH, AND ME, TOO.

ANYWAYS, THE KAICHO'S ASKED FOR A NIGHT PATROL FROM YOU.

WHY US?

OOOH! Night patrols

ANYWAY, WHAT IS, IS.

HERE.

YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?!

YOU KNOW WHERE ALL THE BEST PEEPING SPOTS ARE!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY SHE WANTED ME, BUT YOU'RE AN *OBVIOUS* CHOICE.

KLAK

HUH?

regret being friends

Even friends

WHOA, WAIT A MINUTE HERE!! ARE YOU TELLING ME TO GO OUT THERE ON PATROL BY MYSELF?!!

GO PROTECT YOUR CASTLE!

GOOD LUCK, NINJA-GIRL.

WE GOT SPECIAL PERMISSION TO USE OUR BLADES OUTSIDE OF THE HOSHITORI FOR THIS PATROL.

Back to business.

PIDEEEEEEE

And so...

they depart.

RSTL

RSTL

RSTL

RIGHT, YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO GO.

HENCE, NO NEED FOR ME

DUH. YOU'VE GOT TWO SWORDS, THAT MEANS YOU CAN DO TWICE THE WORK.

BOOM JAKKA BOOM JAKKA

Stupid Kikkikomori.

UH... OKAY. SURE

I WANNA GO ON A KIMO-DAMESHI!!

I'LL GO!! I'LL GO WITH YOU, JUN-JUN!!

I know!

C'MON HAYATE-CHAN. WE CAN MAKE IT A DATE.

SPARKLE

SPARKLE

*KIMODAMESHI, A TYPE OF DARE USUALLY DONE IN THE SUMMERTIME, KIMODAMSHI OFTEN INVOLVES KIDS GOING INTO AREAS CONSIDERED SPOOKY OR HAUNTED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

WHOA!! CALM DOWN HAYATE-CHAN!!!

THERE'S AN EVIL DEMON KING *RIGHT OVER THERE!!*

JUN-JUN!! JUN-JUN!! JUN-JUN- JUN-JUN- JUN-JUN!!!

GYAAAAAAAA!!!

THERE AREN'T ANY DEMON KINGS OVER THERE. IT'S JUST FOG!

EVIL DEMON KING!!

LEAVES, HAYATE-CHAN! THAT'S JUST LEAVES RUSTLING IN THE WIND!

THE EVIL DEMON KING IS TALKING TO *ME*, JUN-JUN!!

IT'S SAYING SOME-THING!!

RSTL

I HATE THE DARK!!

WHY ARE YOU FREAKING OUT, ANYWAY? DON'T YOU LIKE KIMO-DAMESHI?

YOU'VE GOTTA QUIET DOWN A BIT, OKAY? MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE, AND WE WON'T CATCH ANYBODY.

UM, YOU KNOW WHAT?

OH...

Well. It is night after all.

You looked so excited before we left

WYAAAAAAAAAAA!!!

SHEESH.

SO I'M STUCK BY MYSELF AFTER ALL

Good luck, Jun-juuuun!!

DMP DMP DMP DMP DMP DMP DMP DMP

OKAY, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, HAYATE-CHAN. I CAN HANDLE IT FROM HERE, SO YOU GO ON BACK AND PLAY WITH AVANA.

AND COVER YOUR EARS SO YOU DON'T HEAR WHAT THE EVIL DEMON KING IS SAYING!

ROGER-ING THAT, MA'AM!!

NOD

.....

IT'D BE SO MUCH EASIER IF I COULD FIGHT JUST USING YUKO'S HEAVEN SWORD

RSTL

Come out wherever you aaare

Any peeping toms here?

FEELS MORE LIKE I'VE GOT ONE TOO MANY

DUAL-WIELDING, HUH?

FEELS MORE LIKE A PAR EFFORT THAT WAY

BUT IF I'VE GOT TO, WINNING USING BOTH WOULD BE PRETTY COOL

Someday...

WAAAAAAAAAA—
AAAAAAAHH!!!

BA-THUMP

But become a reminder.

That I never fight alone.

May t be not just a replacement for the one who sn't here

I'D BETTER HURRY, SO I CAN GO BACK WHERE IT'S WARM!

BRRR, IT'S COLD!

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

WHAT, IS THIS? THE NEXT CHAPTER IN THE *EVIL DEMON SERIES*? LET ME GUESS, BRANCHES RUSTLING?

A BIG one and a little one!!

THE EVIL DEMON KING HAS EVIL DEMON *DAUGHTERS!!*

DAUGHTERS!!

JUN-JUN-JUN-JUN-JUN-JUN!!!

ONCE, HAYATE-CHAN! YOU ONLY HAVE TO SAY MY NAME *ONCE!*

RSTL

WHAT'S WRONG?

RSTL
RSTL

WAIT.

AH

NO! NOT DEMONS!

THOSE ARE OUR PEEPING TOMS!

AND DON'T SQUEEZE SO HARD, I CAN'T BREATHE!

HUG

JUN-JUN. I'M SCARED!

THERE!! EVIL DEMON DAUGH-TERS!!

YOU THERE! FREEZE!!!

WHAT-EVER!

Wah

G.r s .?

They're students here?

TP TP TP TP ...?

GAK!

FSH

!

GYAAAA!! STAY AWAY!!

WSH

WSH

WSH

WAH!

!

CHK

THWAK

THWAK

THWAK

SWISH

SWASH

WHUMP

OOH.

CLICK

THAT FELT PRETTY GOOD

HMMM

THAT

YEAH.

I NEED TO REMEMBER THAT

WOOO

YOU'RE AWESOME, JUN-JUN!

DMP DMP

SO...

I GET THE FACT THAT YOU TWO ARE 1ST YEAR MIDDLE-SCHOOL SWORD-BEARERS...

BUT WHAT I DON'T GET IS *WHY.*

WERE YOU TWO SPYING OR SOME-THING?

Eww

UM... YEAH.

SO I TALKED WITH TSUJI AND WE DECIDED TO LIKE, DO SOME INFORMATION GATHERING ON OUR OPPONENTS.

I MEAN, WE COULDN'T STEAL ANYBODY'S STARS AT ALL, Y'KNOW?

RIGHT? RIGHT?

THEN KAGO SAID MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE PICTURES AND, LIKE, THREATEN TO POST THEM AT PLACES AND STUFF

FIRST YEAR MIDDLE-SCHOOL-ERS AND ALREADY THEY'RE TRYING BLACK-MAIL.

Huh? With black paper and envelopes?

AH WELL

I CAUGHT YOU BEFORE YOU ACTUALLY TOOK ANY PICTURES.

YOU WILL?

SO I GUESS I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS ONCE.

HOW-EVER..

FURTHER NIGHTTIME INTELLI-GENCE-GATHERING MISSIONS ARE HEREBY *FORBIDDEN.*

I CATCH YOU OUT HERE AGAIN AND I WILL DO A LITTLE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OF MY OWN-- *ON YOUR BODIES.*

SO LOOK FORW-- ER, I MEAN, WATCH OUT, OKAY?

. . . .

V-YES, MAAM

GLEEEE

AM

"DUAL-WIELDER" HAYATE-CHAN. THE WORD IS "DUAL!"

NO. NO.

YOU'VE GOTTA BE IF YOU'RE A BI-WIELDER!

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WERE SUPER-DUPER STRONG, JUN-JUN!

THAT WAS SOOO AWE-SOME!

THERE ISN'T ANY SUCH THING AS EVIL DEMON KINGS!

OR GHOSTS OR MONSTERS UNDER THE BED EITHER!

THERE WASN'T EVER ANY EVIL DEMON KING.

WHEN THE EVIL DEMON KING STARTED COMING AFTER ME, I WAS SURE I WAS A GONER, BUT THEN YOU CAME AND SAVED ME!

RIGHT! I KNEW THAT!

WHAT, JUN-JUN?

HM?

.....

And so...

HUH?

You forgot something?

I JUST REMEMBERED WHAT I'D FORGOT.

THANKS, HAYATE-CHAN.

Two days later...

PM9:00

I'LL TURN OFF THE LIGHTS, NOW, SHIZUMA-SAN.

GOOD NIGHT.

KLIK

G'NIGHT

SIGH

.....

SLEEPY AT ALL YET.

WHY DOES LIGHTS-OUT A THIS

I have my own room so why can't I be up later?

.....!

OY OY OY

KREAK

SLT

POP

SLEEPING AT A HOSPITAL IS NOT SOMETHING

SILENCE

TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP

BOMP BOMP BOMP

YUHO.

TAP

UHO

TAP

YUHO

TAP

SHE LEFT CARRYING SOME LONG PACKAGE RIGHT AFTER DINNER

NO IDEA.

Let's play Lisa

WHERE'S JUN-JUN?

HUH?

.....

Well, lucky for you that good ol' Jun has made the three-hours-one-way trip just to bring you a special Monster-Busting Bokken!

SHOOP

SORRY, I TOTALLY FORGOT.

YOU'RE SCARED OF MONSTERS AND GHOSTS, RIGHT?

"NAMU AMIDA BUTSU: A BUDDHIST PRAYER WHICH ESSENTIALLY MEANS 'LORD HAVE MERCY'

SHE'S SUCH AN IDIOT.

GHOST-BUSTER SWORD

NAMU AMIDA BUTSU

HUH?

YUHO?

NOT MUCH OF A REACTION, THERE...

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

BDMP

THIS IS A BIT MUCH EVEN FOR A NINJA, Y'KNOW.

Are you even listening?

UM... THIS IS THE THIRD FLOOR, RIGHT?

DANG

WHY'RE YOU KICKING ME OUT?

YUHO~?

WHA?

YU~ HO~ ?

I BET SHE COMPLETELY FORGOT SHE ALREADY MADE ONE OF THESE FOR ME YEARS AGO.

Current

is she trying to make me look like a yankee?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF MAKING *ME* A DUAL-WIELDER, TOO?

4th Grade

Jun ..

There aren't any ghosts here

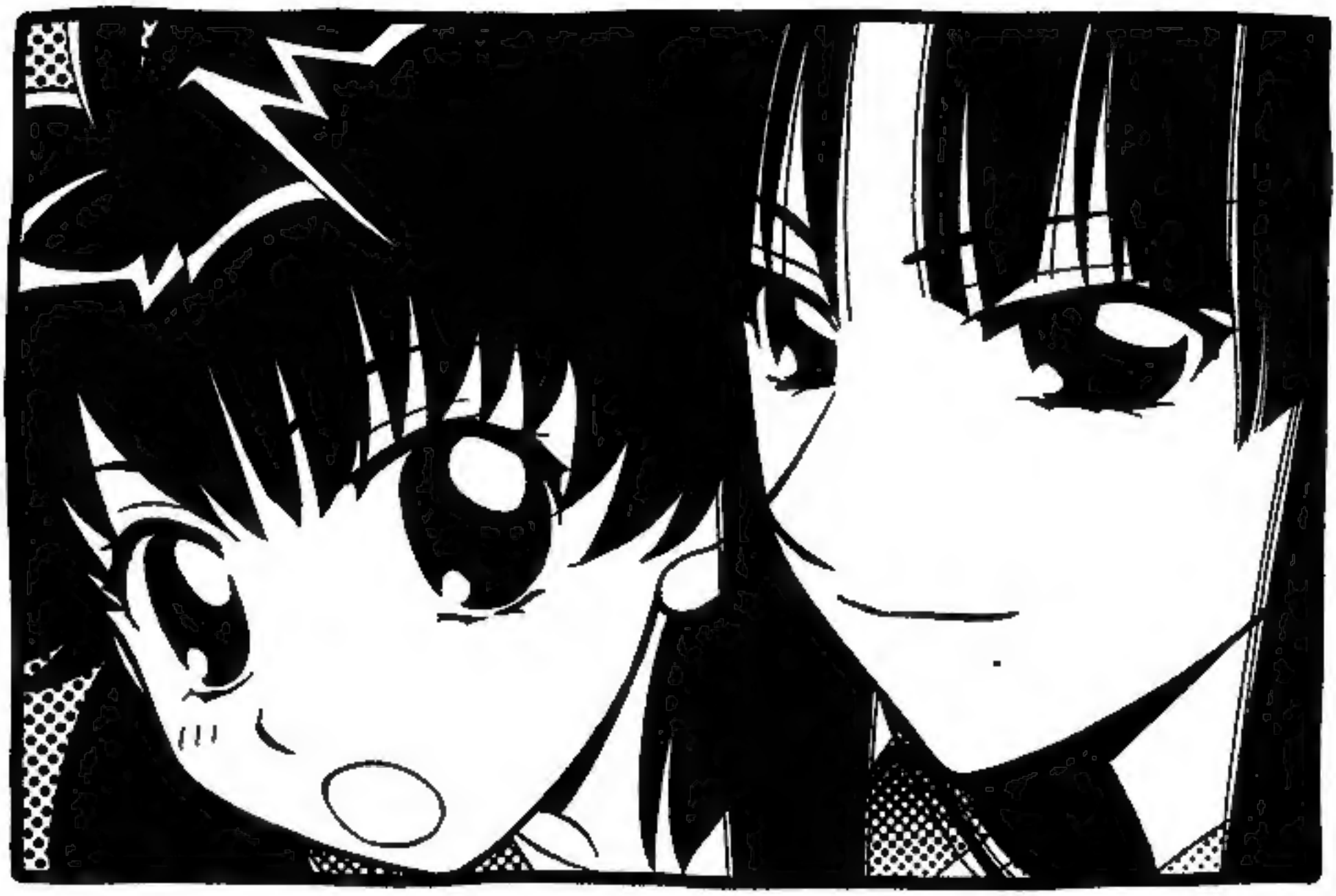
Right...?

OH WELL.

I'VE GOT TWO...

SO NO GHOST WOULD DARE SHOW UP NOW.

#Bonus - END



POSTSCRIPT.

This is one number I never thought I'd see my entire life...VOLUME 4. Thank You!! Wait, what was that? What kind of problems did we have this time? Um...Th-There weren't any. ::Ba-thump-thump::
I think we finally managed to get a volume out without any mistakes (well, without needing official corrections, that is). Could this volume be worth commemorating for that reason...? (I'm not sure.) But you know, without those to tell you about, I just realized I don't have anything to write here. Oh, here's something. The month this volume goes on sale (2006.01), you can immediately read the continuation in the Dengeki Daioh Issue for that month. So for those of you who used to wait for the tankoubon volumes and are getting sick of how long I take, please consider this opportunity to try reading the chapters as they come out in the magazine. Of course, I always want to increase my pace a little, so I can bring new chapters to all of you sooner... sooner... sooner!! Anyways, see you all next volume!!

✿ You all know already, but Thank You, my Miracle-Worker Assistand Ren Makise. You're so awesome!! And my readers, you're all awesome too!!

Hayashiya
林家2005.12

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はやて×ブレード

4巻です！ありがとうございます！
ということで今回のペーパー(木村ペーパー)は先行して
発売されとります「ストロベリーシェイクSweet」との
連動企画になっております。

姫抱き対決
に かれ

青コーナー：
じゅんじゅん
&
ゆうほ
&
(主人公はゆて)

赤コーナーは
らんらんとじゃぁ
でした！

では今年もどうぞ
よろしくお願い
しまっす！
寒い中わざわざ
買いに来てくれて
感謝です！
幸せに
なろうぜー!!

木村ひける.
2006

えっ なに なに
なんすか
マジっすか。

マジ
です

ハヤテ×ブレード

Notes and Credits

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Deathy80
Editing:
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RAWs:
toshokan

Chapter 25.5 (volume 4 bonus chapter) is done! With this chapter finished, volume 4 also ends, and it's time to continue on to volume 5 =)
Don't really know if I'll continue with volume 5 right away (I might release a couple Variante chapters first, not really sure yet). But the first chapter of vol 5 will be done in about 2 weeks the latest =)

Enjoy <3

http://deathy80.blogspot.com